



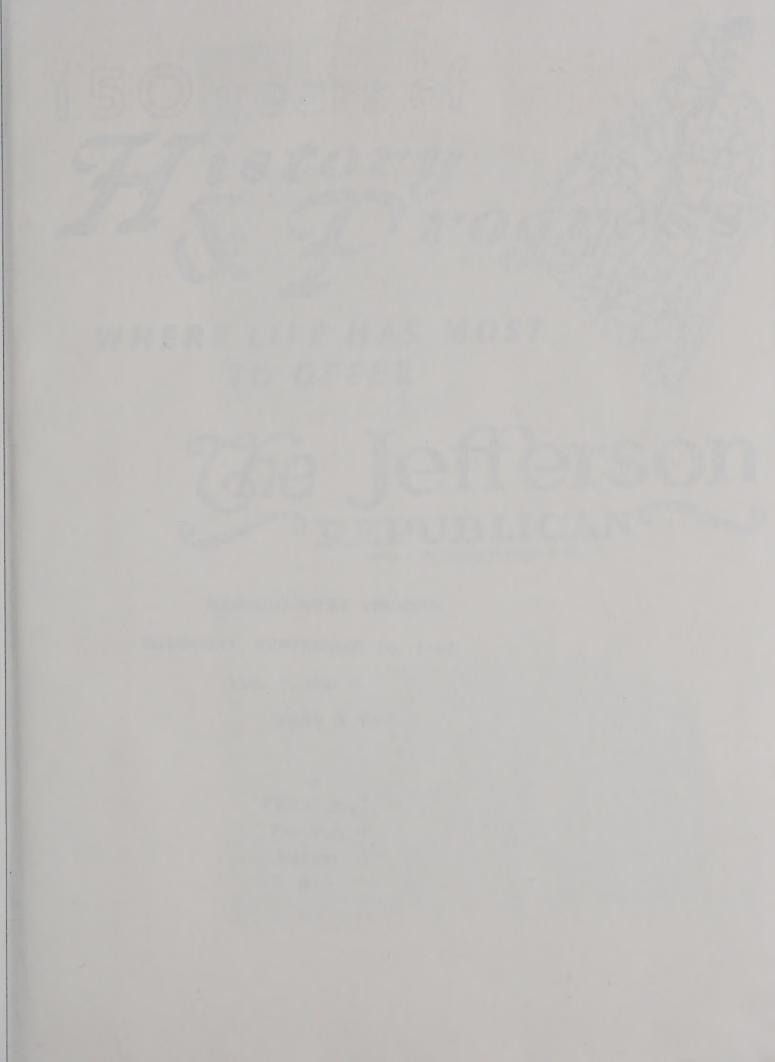
REYNOLDS HISTORICAL GENEALOGY COLLECTION



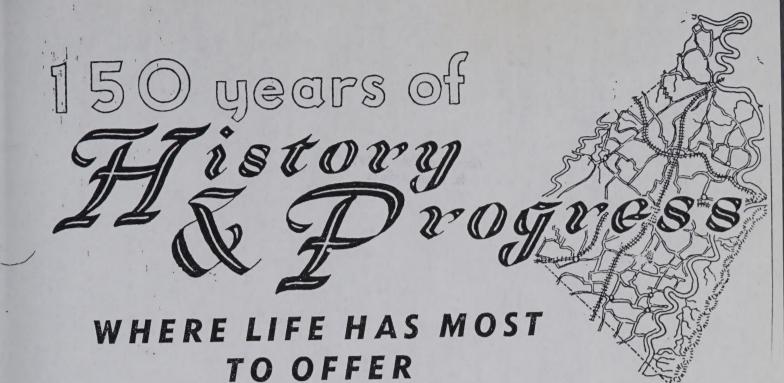
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RANSON, WEST VIRGINIA,

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1951

VOL. 9.-NO. 4.

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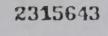
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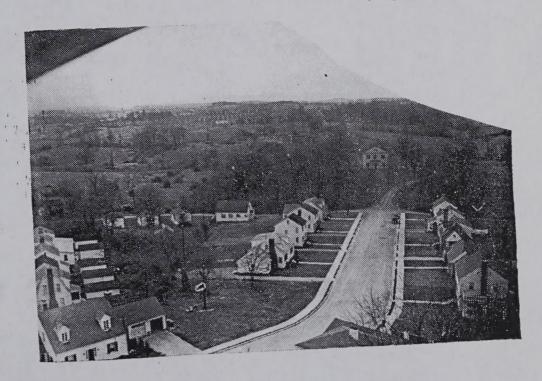
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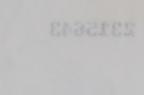




One of the most historic spots in America, Jefferson county has been blessed with many great people, great events and great accomplishments. In the coat of arms designed for the county's celebration of its 150th birthday are pictured four points where historic epochs occurred. They are as shown in the center of the official Jefferson county Sesqui-Centennial seal top (left) the John Brown Fort, located at historic Harpers Ferry; Rumsey's monument, (right) at Shepherdstown. And to the lower left is the stately and historic Jefferson county Court House, while to the lower right is Harewood, the home of Samuel Washington, located a few miles northwest of Charles Town on the Middleway Road.

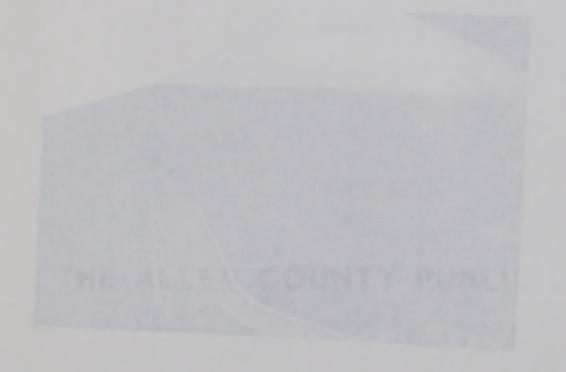


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## THE PAST

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# By Land, Water They Came To Break Silence of Indian Paradise

#### By DONALD R. RENTCH

Things used to be pretty quiet in this section of the country. But that was more than centuries ago when falling leaves and the whoosh of the Indian arrows were about the only things that could be heard. That was before the early explorers stuck their heads over the summit of the Blue Ridge Mountains and gazed down upon the beautiful and now historic Shenandoah Valley. That was before John Lederer, a German by birth, and Louis Michelle, a Frenchman, invaded the present limits of Jefferson county and West Virginia. Yes, that was even before a portion of land was taken from Berkeley county in 1801 and named Jefferson county after Thomas Jefferson who was then the President of the United States.

### THINGS NOT SO QUIET

This year, with Jefferson county counting its blessings of 150 years of history and progress with a gala celebration, things are not so quiet. Nor have they been very quiet since the white man first started treading upon the stomping grounds of the Indians. Because hardly had the sound of the Indian war drums died away when the drums and blasts of the Revolutionary War broke loose. Then followed the bombardments of the Civil War. And after the blood stains had dried from a land which ran red with it; and after the wounds of the wars had healed, it was the wheels of progress which took over the noise-making and it is this same noise which Jefferson countains are still hearing today.

While for the most part the celebrating this year is emphasizing the past, the people of Jefferson county and this section in general, are also looking forward to a greater resurgence of both rural and urban growth than has ever been experienced in the past. And for those who will put on their "future" glasses there will be many interesting things to see.

Whenever birthdays are observed it is only natural that comparisons must be made. This year the spotlight will be on comparisons of Jefferson county and this section 150 years ago; 100 years ago; and 50 years ago and the present day.

Who came first to Jefferson county; when they came; and how they came is of course important. But of greater importance is the fact they did come, they saw and they conquered. They came with a thirst for land. They came to escape persecution. They came, the Germans from Pennsylvania; and the men of English descent from Tidewater, Virginia. They poured into the valley of Virginia first at Harpers Ferry, then at Shepherdstown; and they spread out over the land and possessed it and held it.

#### **BUILT FIRST HOME IN 1726**

It was as early as 1726 when the first cabin home was built in West Virginia by Morgan Morgan. And it was built in the vicinity of the present village of Bunker Hill ir. Berkeley county. Then in 1727 some of the German explorers came across the Potomac River at the "Old Packhorse Ford," located about a mile below the present town of Shepherdstown.

Before long the explorers who had penetrated the vast wilderness of this section of the Shenandoah Valley, had done such a fine job of telling of the wonderful resources the land had to offer, that inhabitants came thick and fast by

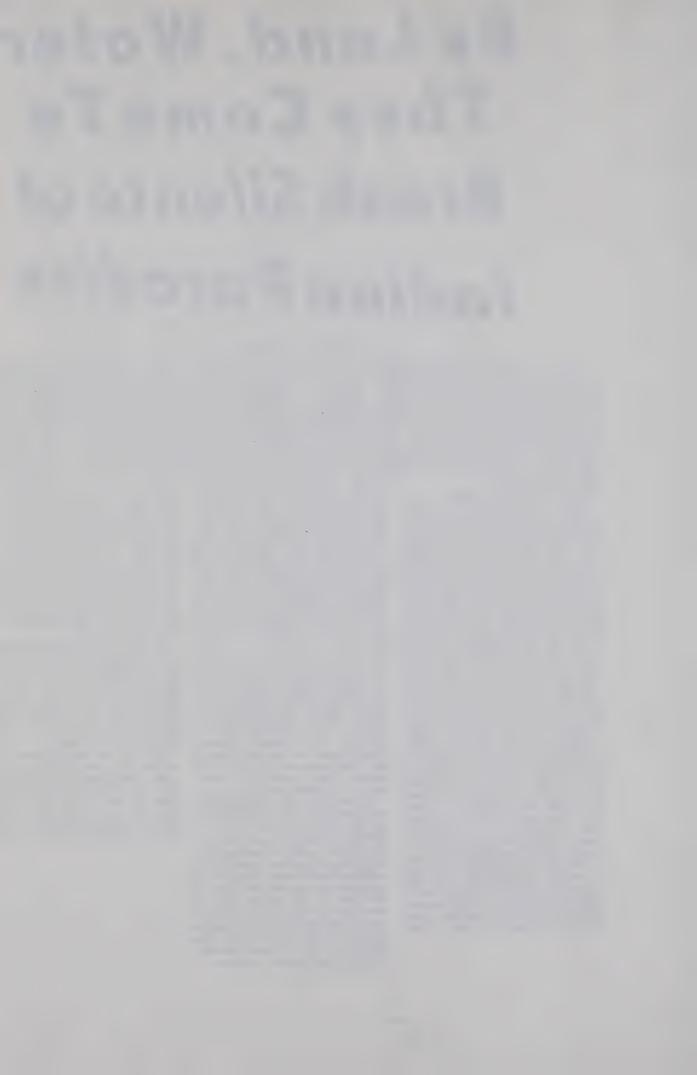
inhabitants came thick and fast by both land and water. The influx of the pioneers was so heavy that by the time the 225 square miles of land was taken from Berkeley county and named Jefferson county, there were some 19,713 people located in the area which then comprised what is now Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan counties.

Since no census was taken at the time the county was formed in 1801, the true population could not be ascertained. It was assumed, however, that about one-third of the 1,500 white inhabitants of Berkeley county and one-half of the 3,600 Negro slaves in Berkeley county were taken to form Jefferson county. On this basis then Jefferson county would have had a population of 500 white inhabitants and 1,800 Negro slaves when it became a county.

The first accurate census figures taken in 1810 after Jefferson county was formed showed the county had a population of 11,851. During the next ten years the county showed slow, but steady, progress and by 1850 some 15,357 people were settled in the county, or more than six times the number when the county was formed.

Then for the next 50 years the county didn't gain much in population, only about 200. But it did show progress by every other yardstick. It was during this period that more of the nation's history was being heaped upon a county which was already rich in heritage.

5



WAS ONE OF LEADING COMMUNITIES

Since Jefferson county from the time it was formed until the more recent years, was always regarded as a rich farming area, with large farms and large orchards, little thought was given to industrialization. And since industrialization did not get underway in the county on any sizeable scale until recent years, there has not been much of an influx of people into the county since the turn of the 20th century.

#### HAS FARED WELL

The 1950 census shows, however, that the county has fared well in the past 50 years as there are now 17,151 people residing within its confines as against 15,557 in 1901. Also an increase of 389 people was shown in the county's population figures during the past ten years.

Naturally with the increase in population there came an increase in the number of dwellings and other buildings erected in the county. The county now has a total of 4,893 dwellings as against the some 500 that were in the county when it was formed.

Another interesting fact the 1950 census revealed about Jefferson county was that farming has dropped off somewhat in the county during the past 10 years and industry and cattle-raising has been on the upgrade. The census figures for 1950 showed there are now only 768 farms in the county as against 859 ten years ago.

Turning from the county in general to the various communities and towns therein, the census figures show that Charles Town, which is the county seat, now has a population of 3.030 against the 715 souls it had in 1801; and the 143 dwellings which it had 150 years ago would only be a small segment of the hundreds which

now lie within the town's corporation limits. And instead of the two meeting houses for worship which the town had in 1801, there are now nearly a dozen modern churches.

Ranson, now the second largest town in Jefferson county, with a population of 1,433 people, wasn't even a community 150 years ago. Shepherdstown, the oldest town

Shepherdstown, the oldest town in West Virginia, and the first one in Jefferson county, has a population today of 1,169, or just about the same as in 1800. The town had 180 homes then, but now it has nearly twice that number.

Harpers Ferry, the next largest town in the county, had nearly as many people in 1801 as it has today the 814 population figures as against 700 then do not paint the entire picture of the town because a part of its population, plus other settlers who came into the valley, later went to make up the town of Bolivar which now has a population of 640 people and which wasn't even a settlement in 1801.

Middleway, which was also known by the name of Smithfield a century or more ago, was one of the leading communities of the county in the early days; and at one time it was reputed to be larger than Charles Town, and other towns in the county. In 1801 it contained 51 dwellings and 211 souls. There were two meeting houses for worship; three stores, an apothecary shop, one distillery and numerous other businesses which made for a thriving community.

While some of the communities of the county, or some sections of it, have not fared as well as others down through the years, here are some additional substantial evidences that the county in general has grown and prospered.

In Charles Town alone the building permits over the past ten years have been the largest in history. And during this period construction was limited because of wartime needs. In 1801 there were not more than a dozen churches in the county, with about half of them being in Shepherdstown. Today there are nearly that many in Charles Town and Ranson alone.

In 1801 there were no schools in the county and today opportunities for education are unlimited.

A fairly recent comprehensive survey of business activity in Jefferson county showed that it maintains a high position among the more than 3,000 counties of the United States.

How well the people of Jefferson county have been faring in recent years is shown by their effective buying income—the amount available to them after the payment of rersonal taxes. With next earnings of \$13,819 for the some 4,000 families in the county, the average is \$3,455 per family; and per individual in the county the average is \$892 after taxes have been deducted. Thus the county has kept pace with the rest of the nation on net incomes.

A recent survey by "Sales Management" also showed that the people of Jefferson county are living better and enjoying more food than people in many other areas of the country. Jefferson county's retail food bill, in the meat markets, vegetable stores and other shops, came to \$1,907,000 in 1948. Which was equal to \$123 per person. This ability to spend more for food is definitely one of the chief indicators of better living standard in the county. And higher living standards is certainly convincing evidence of progress and growth.

(Editor's note — The Jefferson Republican wishes to credit Col. Robert L. Bates and Virgil A. Lewis, author of History and Government in West Virginia for supplying some of the information, especially statistics used in this story.)

## News From Old Papers

EDITOR'S CLASH

"We expect that the farmereditor of the FREE PRESS will at an early date, advise farmers not to kill all the bulls in the county, that they may utilize bull tongues for cultivating corn."—FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Oh, no! We will not peach upon the sacred domain of Editor-Farmer Morrow, lest we subject ourselves to the accusation of plowing with the Advocate's heifer.

Seven newspapers were published in Martinsburg at the date of Feb. 14, 1894.

The Southern Press, Washington City, Oct. 4, 1851—

Boston dateline): Daniel Webster is rumored to be very ill. (Sept. 30, New York dateline): Two more banks are turning down notes from banks in the interior of New York state.

(San Francisco dateline): Sept. 30.—Over fifty millions in gold have been taken out of California so far this year.

Winchester Virginian, Aug. 6, 1851—

The President of the United States is expected to reach Winchester this (Wednesday) evening at about twenty minutes past six. He will be received at Shannondale by the Mayor, Council and Committee of Citizens, who will accompany him in an extra train. President Fillmore, his family and Messrs. Stewart and Conrad will be conveyed from the depot to the hotel in two carriages. He will do no speaking.

The carriage shop of Mr. H. G. Good in which Mr. W. C. Feagans kept a retail meal and flour store, and Mr. C. W. Yountz a shoemakers shop, at Summit Point, was destroyed by fire last Wednesday night.—Insured for \$300.

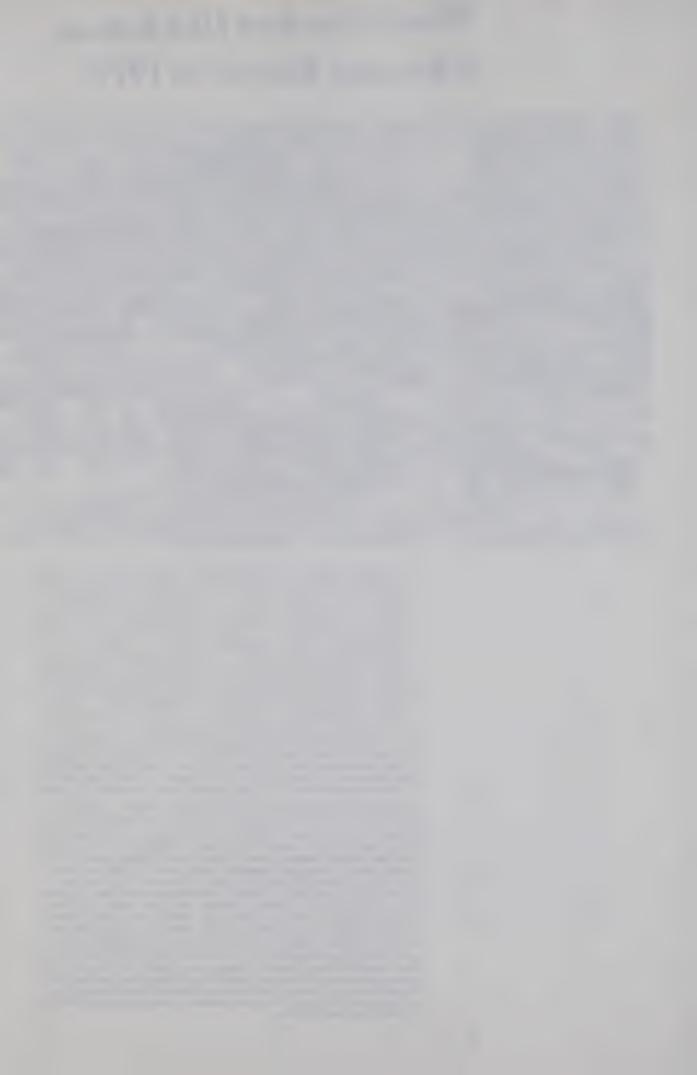


# What It Looked Like Before It Became Ranson In 1910



Forty years ago efforts were evident to establish a new town beyond the northern limits of Charles Town. A sizeable settlement had grown up as the result of several industries being located in the area. An election was held to decide this issue on October 15, 1910 and the qualified voters within the bounds of the proposed town cast 69 ballots for incomparing the settlement as a town and two votes against the proposal. Application was then made to the Circuit Court of Jefferson county for a certificate of incorporation and on October 18, a new town officially came into being in Jefferson county. And today that town which didn't even exist a half century ago and which was named for Matthew Ranson, who built the Ranson Homestead, is now the second largest in the county, being topped in population only by Charles Town, the county seat. The above picture shows Ranson before it was Ranson. When this picture was taken May 13, 1899 by C. I. McClung, who was then a photographer in Charles Town, it was John Deering Farm Equipment day and they were making the best of it with this huge display. C. N. Coleman of Charles Town represented the Deering Company and Preston Hopkins was salesman for Mr. Coleman. The owners of the teams shown in the foreground were Will and Charles Engle, Jeff Bane, Charles

W. Connor, Oscar Ramey, C. E. Quick, Isaac Ramey, William McSherry, George B. Hooff and Edward Winkler. Charles Engle, the only living member, is shown in the area in the white circle. Members of the band are Filmore Davis, Edward Henson, Thomas Baker, Harry Baker, Milton Slifer, Harry Middlekauff, John Harrell, Jim Stinger and Bub Davis. Shown in the background are the former Crane House, now owned by Peter H. B. VanTol; the Woodward House, about the first one built in Ranson; The "Dunaway" House which was built by Bushrod Washington and the "Ranson Inn". It was in this latter building that Mrs. Daisy W. Bush started teaching school in 1895. She taught there for 18 years. Wright Denny was principal of the school at that time. Also shown in the background of the picture is the Powhatan Hotel, which was built in 1891. It was built as a hotel, but later was used as a girls school under the name of "Powhatan College." Later it was bought by the Episcopal Diocese and used as a girls' school under the name of St. Hilda's Hall. Then 15 years ago the building burned and now the new and modern Charles Town General Hospital occupies the site. The above picture is the property of Phillip Perks, Sr., Charles Town.



# Seat Of Learning Came Before Ambitions For Jefferson County

By DONALD R. RENTCH

Sir William Berkeley, Governor of Virginia, in his report on the condition of the Colony in 1671, said "Thank God, there are no free schools or printing presses, and I hope there will be none for the next hundred years, for learning has brought disobedience and heresy and sects into the world and printing has divulged these and other libels."

Of course Berkeley spoke of free schools and although the hope he expressed was fully realized, because it was 125

years after his utterance before Virginia enacted a law for a public school system, not all free men living in this new found country, felt the way Berkeley did about free schools and printing presses.

To understand the origin and development of education in Jefferson county and West Virginia, it is first necessary to examine the records of Virginia before the for-mation of Jefferson county and West Virginia.

LIMITED CONTROL OF

**EDUCATION** 

In the early days of the settlement of this country except in the certification of common school teachers, the government of Colonial Virginia limited its control of education to certain requirements respecting poor orphans and indigent children. To owners of large estates this was not objectionable writes Charles H. Ambler in his History of Education in West Virginia, as most owners of those large estates were educated gen-, tlemen, ambitious for their children and for the society then in the process of building. In the absence of villages and towns such as maintained community schools in New England, Virginia planters were compelled to use private tutors on the youth.

For the most part these early tutors were English and Scots who were well prepared scholastically and some of them became so engrossed in their teaching they gave their lives to it. And it was through them that many private schools were established and later developed into common schools and in

some cases academies. It was along these lines that education in Jefferson county took hold and grew down through the years.

The people of Jefferson county being pioneers in just about every field of endeavor, also took the lead in the development and furthering of education among its peoples.

#### SCHOOLS COME BEFORE COUNTY

There were a number of schools in Jefferson county even before it became a county. Especially was this true about the Shepherdstown section.

Charles Ambler in his "History of Education in West Virginia," reports that the first school in Jeff-erson county may have been the "English" school kept by Robert Cochburn in 1762. Or it may have been a German school active at the same time under an unknown teacher.

After a lapse of 200 years it is very difficult to determine accurately just when the first school was opened in what is now Jefferson county because the written records often disagree on many details.

It is, however, known that Shepherdstown and the surrounding sections of Jefferson and Berkeley counties had its classical academies and later its female seminaries from time immemorial.

Following the Revolutionary War Abraham Shepherd made frequent mention of an academy in Shepherdstown, and the Rev. Stubbs was teaching in it in 1787.

In April 1792, Moses Hoge opened a school in Shepherdstown for the purpose of teaching Latin, Greek and the English languages and some of the most useful branches of Science. And Moses Hoge seemed to be the most effective teacher in developing Shepherdstown into an educational center of the time.

With this background it would be logical to assume, and nothing can be found to the contrary, that the Shepherdstown Academy, which was incorporated by an act of the general assembly of January 3, 1814, was the first, or at least one of the first schools in Jeffer-

son county.

This meant that the Academy had been operating for more than 20 years before it was incorporated as such with the following as trustees: Lewis Mayer, John Mathews, James Brown, John Baker, Daniel



Bedinger, Daniel Buckles, Van Bennett, Van Rutherford, Walter B. Selby, Thomas Van Swearingen, Thomas Toole, John Briscoe, Jr., Aaron Jewett and Robert Worthington.

### CHARLES TOWN ACADEMY OPENED

Another section of Jefferson county—Charles Town—not to be outdone by Shepherdstown, started a movement in 1795 for a Charles Town Academy. And with 81 contributors whose gifts totalled 514 pounds and 18 shillings, the school was opened.

The primary purpose of the Academy was to provide a seminary learning for instruction in Latin, Greek, but in case of demand, it might be expanded to include English, French, geography, astronomy, criticism, mathematics and natural and moral philosophy.

The first trustees of the Academy were: Phillip Pendleton, Gabriel Nourse, Thomas Griggs, Thomas Rutherford, Sr., Christopher Collins, George Steptoe Washington, George Hite, Ferdinando Fairfax, George North, Edward Tiffin, Alexander White, and William Hill. But the act of incorporation substituted Elisha Boyd, John Dixon and Samuel Washington for Philip Pendleton, Christopher Collins and George Steptoe Washington.

The Academy featured its program with a declaration of intention to educate poor children free of cost and then it began its first session in 1798 under the principalship of William Hill, one of the trustees.

This Academy continued to offer instruction without interruption until 1905. In 1910 the building was sold to the Charles Town District Board of Education and on this site now stands the Charles Town Graded School.

Things changed in those days with progress just as they do to-day, and early in the nineteenth century the people of Jefferson county, pioneers in every respect, began thinking about free schools for their children almost before the ink had dried on a statute enacted by the legislature providing a free school law for those counties that chose to adopt it.

Once again it was Jefferson county's people that took the lead in pioneering something new in West Virginia. And so today the county can rightfully claim the distinction of being the first to establish free schools in West Virginia.

#### FIRST FREE SCHOOL

It was only a matter of about a year or so, history not being too accurate on dates, that the first free school in Jefferson county and West Virginia was located on the Grove Hinkle farm on the Harpers Ferry Pike a short distance from Halltown. Mrs. Mary T. Miller reports this school was built in 1847, or only a year after the act was passed permitting free schools in West Virginia.

Robert H. Duke was the first teacher of the school and William Rider was the last. Mrs. Miller also reports that the school was destroyed by cannon fire from Maryland Heights during the Civil War. Today only the skeleton framework of the huge stone walls still remain.

Millard K. Bushong reports in his history of Jefferson county, that John Yates of Walnut Grove, near Flowing Springs, was instrumental in starting the first free school in Jefferson county and West Virginia, and it was located on the Lemen farm near Shepherdstown.

Within the next 15 years progress in education and the educational facilities in Jefferson county kept pace with the fast progressing commercial and business matters and by December 1848 there were 27 free schools in the county. Twenty-three of the schools had a total enrollment of

1,100 students. Seven of the 23 teachers in the county's schools received \$300 per year salary and sixteen others received \$275.

The branches of learning being taught in the schools were reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, spelling and geography.

Like everything else, education continued to show progress in Jeff-erson county until the Civil War and then the county's school system fell into a deplorable condition according to a report made in 1867 to the State Superintendent of Schools by Joseph Barry, county superintendent. Barry complained there was too great a disproportion between the amount collected and that spent by the state in the county. Barry also pointed out in his report that another difficulty was the fact that any person participating in the school's affairs was excluded by law unless he could take an oath that he had never been disloyal. As there were whole districts in the county where scarcely a person could take this oath and where no radical teacher would dare to appear, schools could not be organized.

These troubles were apparently only aftermaths of the war and in a sense growing pains, and by 1873 the public school situation in the county had greatly improved since the years following the Civil War.

Millard K. Bushong in his History of Jefferson County reports that this was due largely to the efforts of William L. Wilson, who had been elected county superintendent of schools in 1871. Better teachers had been engaged, their salaries were being paid more promotly than before and the people as a whole had become more anxious for the improvement of public schools.

## AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE FOUNDED

In 1874, under the influence of the then prominent Grangers, the Jefferson County Agricultural College was born and it was incorporated by an act of the West Virginia Legislature passed January 19, 1875. It was to have been located at Leetown and to be under the control of seven directors chosen by the stockholders. But because of the failure to sell enough stock, the opening of the school was postponed.

A committee from the school and the Grangers went to Washington in an effort to get Congressional aid, but this effort likewise failed. In 1877, however, the Grangers succeeded in having the State Legislature pass a bill giving to the school such revenue as might come to the state in the future from the sale of public lands.

Unfortunately for the school it was at this time that Daniel B. Lucas, one of the most influential backers was named to the Board of Regents of West Virginia University and he shifted his support to that institution, with the result the Jefferson County Agriculture College project collapsed.

Meanwhile a good private school for girls had been opened in Charles Town. And in the Fall of 1882 the Rev. Charles N. Campbell, a former teacher of the Charles Town Academy, conducted a boarding and day school in the western part of the town, known as Mt. Parvo Institute. It continued as such for about two years and then was moved to a different location in Charles Town and became known as the "John Ste-

phenson Seminary". Stephenson had bequeathed land and money to the establishment of the institution. The cornerstone for this school building was laid June 12, 1884 and the school operated until the Fall of 1917. During most of this period the Seminary was under the direction of Dr. Charles N Campbell.

## FIRST CHARLES TOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL

It was in 1893 that a large brick building which had been constructed during the "boom" years was sold to the Charles Town District Board of Education to be used as a Charles Town public school.

In the Fall of that same year Wright Denny of Amelia county, Virginia was hired as principal and he served in this capacity until his retirement in 1939. That school occupied the original building until 1912 when its present quarters were provided.

At the close of the 19th Century there were 73 public schools in the county attended by 3,778 pupils. There was, however, another 1,730 children of school age who did not attend school.

By this time the people of Jefferson had really become education conscious and additional efforts were put forth in all sections of the county towards the improvement and advancement of the county's education facilities and system.

Colonel R. L. Bates in writing on the Old Clip Academy which was in operation at Middleway for a period of five years gives a clear insight as to what was happening in the educational field in Jefferson county.



The teachers of the "seventies," "eighties" and "nineties" represented a superior type both for culture and training Those of the "seventies" were Mr. Far Hayslett and Miss Ida Kearney. The Reverend Mr. George Long, of Lutheran faith, conducted a private school and his moral teachings left an impression upon the community. The village (Middleway) public school teachers during the period of the "nineties" Misses Catherine (Kate) Tanquary, Edith Lloyd, Ruth Helen Bates, Julia Grantham and Margaret Fry. Prior to this time little thought had been given to public high school instruction. Private tutors and governesses had taught Latin, French and Algebra to advanced pupils, but this was mostly prior to the Civil War. During all of the periods mentioned there was

no sharp line of distinction between the grades as there is at present. A pupil went to school until he or his parents thought he had sufficient education. The nearest high school was in Charles Town and that was about seven miles away from Middleway-the equivalent of fifty miles in this automotive age. The expense that would be incurred in sending children away to an academy (for these were hard times) was regarded as prohibitive. Moreover. parents realized the desirability of keeping children at home during their immaturity.

The economic upset of the first and middle parts of the decade had impressed a lesson. No longer was one to rely too much on land prestige, or even for a livelihood. The Bryan campaign and the Spanish-American War were extraverting influences. The latter. no less than the former, created much excitement. There was lavish giving, not of money but of supplies, to the suffering Cuban Insurrectos. The Battle of Manila Bay and Hobson's exploit in sinking the Merrimac echoed through the countryside. Abraham Lincoln was slowly finding his way into the mind of the school child. Excluding the Civil War, never had the inhabitants of Middleway been so interested in what was going on in the outside world.

During the "nineties" the landed gentry maintained a dignity and pride which today would seem stiff and formal. Prestige and land were not to be separated. One was adjudged a success in life in so far as he could add to his holdings in farm land and property. No title, emolument or perquisite could take the place of land. The panic of 1893, the plight of the landowner, at that time, and the threat to the agriculturist of losing caste produced a renaissance. A new order of things now loomed before the denizens of the community. Horizons were suddenly enlarged. A new Century brought a challenge.

It had been observed that manufacturing was displacing land in economic importance. The only obvious expedient for arighting what appeared to be a lost balance was to educate the youth. In deference to the changed outlook on life it was decided that Middleway should have a high school. A college education was held before the eyes of adolescents as the surest way to maintain a place in the new order of things. It was proposed that a competent university man be employed under private auspices as principal of the high school. Rooms in the Masonic Hall were rented. For want of a better name, the school would be called Clip Academy. In the summer of 1900, Robert B. S. Shackelford, Jr., of Albemarle County, Va., who had studied at the University of Virginia, was employed as the first principal. The school was under Mr. Shackelford's control for two years. He resigned to study medicine and subsequently became an officer in the Medical Corps of the United States Army, Reverend Andrew J. Willis, who was a native of Orange county, was assigned the duty of selecting the teachers. Mr. Shackelford was succeeded by Robert Peachy Latane of Essex County, Va. Mr. Latane had studied at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and was an exceedingly brilliant mathematician. After one year of service he went into industrial work but died an untimely death from a fever. He was succeeded by Mr. Arthur Powell Gray of Amherst county, Va. Mr. Gray had attended the University of Virginia. After a tenure of two years he resigned the principalship of the school in order to study the Episcopal ministry. For many years he was rector at West Point, Va. The school was in operation for a period of five years. The name of the school had been changed in the meantime to Jefferson Academy. A scholarship was offered to the high standing pupil by Washington and Lee University to which college it was accredited. The roll of the Academy brings us to the year, 1905:

John Mitchell Willis, Hunter Willis, Margaret Somerville Willis, John Porter Lucas, Robert Strider, Margaret Shaull, John Murphy Shaull, John Clavert Murphy, William Seibert, George Seibert, Douglas Sampson, Charlotte Barnes, Mary Joyce Lewis, John Fielding Lewis, Edward Davis, Edgar Kearnes, Albert Davis, Dorothy Throckmorton Thompson, Imogen Thompson, Lee Brown, Thomas Harrison, Clarence Earle Grantham, John Scott, Alexander Mason Evans, Margaret Howell Evans, Phebe May Rose Gilbert, Henry Americus Souder, Bruce Grubb, Clyde Grubb, Smith Henshaw, Charles Calvin Henshaw, Raymond Farnsworth, Wallace Kuykendall, John E. Gilbert, Scollary Brierly, Margaret Shirley Bates, John Thomas Bates, Harry Margaret Shirley Howard Bates, Robert Lee Bates, Keith Lloyd.

In about 1904 the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia established a school in Jefferson county, buying a tract of land on the east side the Shenandoah River where they erected an industrial school mountain children. At the present this school is operating under the more familiar name of the "Mountain Mission."

Although the county's school situation made a fast recovery from the Civil War during the last 25 years of the nineteenth century, it was really not until after the start of the 20th century that the modern improvements and real expansion came.

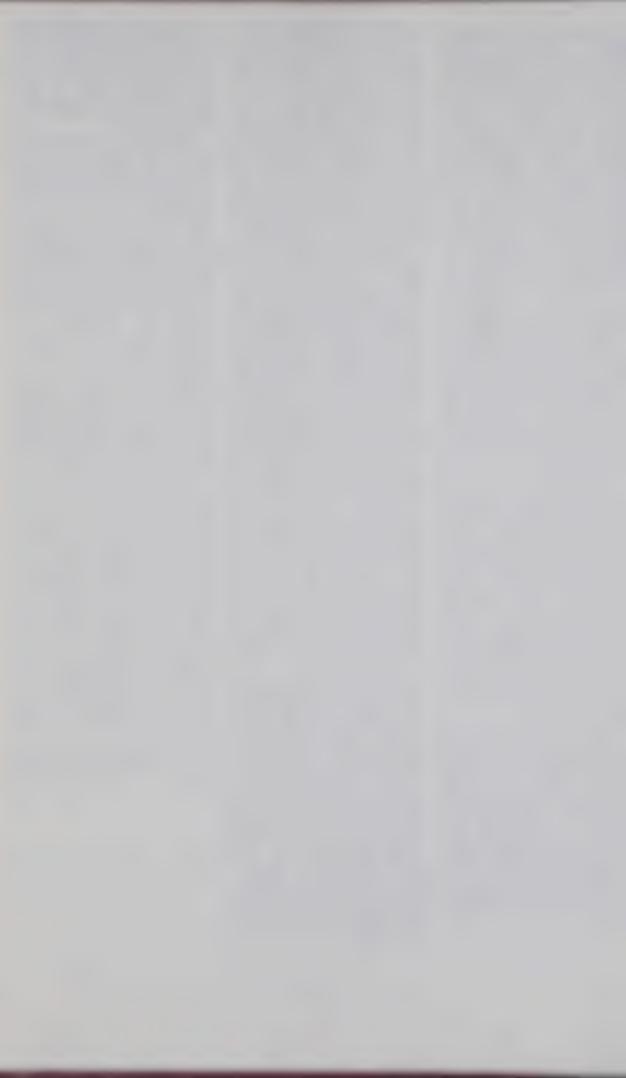
Finally in the 1920's the condi-ons in the schools of Charles Town, Harpers Ferry and Shepherdstown became so crowded that the Jefferson county board of education had to take steps to remedy the situation and as a result three new high schools were built in the county within a period of several years. And only several months ago a fourth new and modern high school was completed in the county—the Page-Jackson High School which is located in

Charles Town. Today the old one-room schools are gone from Jefferson county. the last one to go was the Chestnut Hill school located on the Blue Ridge Mountain. Today the Blue Ridge school which has six grades and an enrollment of 170 students has replaced all the small schools in the mountain section.

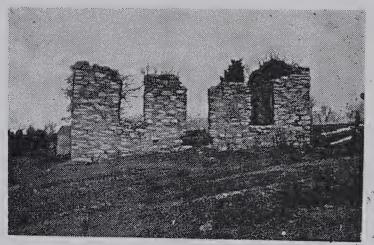
When the county school unit system was set up in West Virginia some 14 years ago Mr. Isaac Bonham served as Jefferson county's Superintendent of Schools and after him came the late Henry M. Sydnor, who served for 13 years, before resigning to accept a position at Austin College, Sherman, Texas. Named as his successor was T. A. Lowry, named in 1948. He had been serving as principal of Charles Town High School since 1939 and prior to that had taught at Harpers Ferry High School for six years.

Today the education facilities offered in Jefferson county and the number of persons associated with them in various capacities are a far cry from the days before there was a Jefferson county. Today also there are 3,550 students enrolled in the five high schools and 17 elementary schools in the county in which 134 teachers and principals are directing the educational destinies of the youth of the

county.



Progress! Yes, there has been plenty of it and the people of Jefferson county can feel justly proud that they were among the pioneers of education in this great state and this great nation. And while education has gone forward in the county, state and nation, still there are many things yet to be done to improve the educational system. There is a long road ahead, but today there is a double force at work to help make the load and the road easier as the parents and teachers have teamed up for the welfare of the children. And with such a constructive force as the Parent-Teachers group that has been organized and is active, this terrific educational enterprise which is costing the taxpayers and the state so many millions of dollars a year is sure to show even greater progress in the years ahead.



Although for the most part it was destroyed by cannon fire during the Civil War, shown above are parts of the walls of the first free school erected in Jefferson county and West Virginia. It was located on a rise near Halltown and was built in 1847.



CHARLES TOWN ACADEMY was organized in 1795. The front part of the Old Academy (above) was added by Capt. Wm. H. Kable about 1877. The building was torn down in 1912 and the Charles Town Graded School ("Wright Denny") was erected on the lot.



## Rural Residents Of Jefferson Co. First To Get Free Mail Service

By DONALD R. RENTCH

Jefferson county was first in so many things it has been a difficult task to remember and report all of them, but there is one first which the rural residents of Jefferson county should remember everyday the mail man drops past their home as it was in this historic county that the experiment with rural mail service was first tried and proved to be successful.

It will be 55 years ago next month since this new service to the nation's rural people was born in Charles Town, and

even today, after so many years Charles Town and Jefferson county is fortunate in that they still have two of the men who participated in this historic experiment in their midst—Melvin T. Strider, prominent Charles Town business man; and Albert Vernon "Chick" Garney, also of Charles Town.

The story of the first rural mail service reveals that a long drawr out, uphill battle was waged in Washington before the plan was actually given a trial on October 1, 1896, at Charles Town. And today more than 29,000,000 residents of the United States receive this service. More than 32,000 rural mail carriers cover 1,425,860 miles of roads to bring messages of all types to more than 7,000,000 homes.

For some time previous to the inauguration of the service, rural residents throughout the nation had been considering the possibility and also feasibility of having mail delivered to their homes.

The greatest objection to the idea was the cost of such service some arguing that it would be a great saving to the country people and others arguing that the cost would be far greater than the service rendered.

It was in 1892 that an organization openly endorsed rural free delivery, and this came as the result of an address by Worthy Master J. H. Brigham before the 26th annual session of the National Grange at Concord, N. H., in which he declared that the grange favored free delivery of mail to those who live outside the cities and villages.

Later when grange leaders appeared before a Congressional committee to plead for rural mail delivery they were bluntly told that the idea that the government should send a man with a horse and wagon up and down all the rural districts of America every day to collect and deliver mail was so ridiculous if it were ever tried it would bankrupt the government.

Agitation for the plan continued to increase, however, despite the government's refusal to try it out, and on January 5, 1892, James O'-Donnell, Congressman from Michigan, proposed the first bill for rural mail service in the House of Representatives. Although the measure failed of passage, he is nationally recognized as the "Father of Rural Mail Legislation."

A little more than a year later, on March 3, 1893, a bill which was introduced by Congressman Thomas E. Watson, of Georgia, was made a law and \$10,000 was appropriated for experimental rural delivery.

This sum, nor the \$20,000 which was appropriated July 16, 1894, was not imemdiately used as the Postmaster General did not feel the total sum which had been appropriated was large enough for the purpose.

During the second administration of President Grover Cleveland, the \$20,000 plus an additional \$10,-000 was made available on June

9, 1896.
The Hon. William Lynne Wilson, a native of Charles Town, was Postmaster General at the time, and when the money was made available he decided to try the experiment in his home county and town

It was October 1, that five rural routes were set-up in Jefferson county. Another was to have been established at the same time in Shepherdstown, but the postmaster there opposed it because he believed it would not only take business from his office, but would also hit the town's business. Consequently his office was not selected.

George H. Flagg, postmaster at the Charles Town office at that time assigned the job of working out the routes to be covered in the experimental trips, to Albert Vernon Garney — better known as "Chick" Garney.

Mr. Garney was serving as a clerk in the postoffice at the time, and he immediately began composing a list of all the county residents who were interested in having mail delivered to their homes. While most of them jumped at the

idea, some few refused to sign the list, and one particular incident which Mr. Garney has little trouble recalling was the man who refused the service because he said the mail trip to Charles Town is "my only way of getting to town for a drink."

By the morning of October 1, Garney had the routes outlined, and there were five deliveries simultaneously, all being made on horse back.

Harry Gibson, Frank Young and John Lucas were the carriers starting out from Charles Town; Melvin T. Strider worked out of Uvilla; and I. K. Strider worked out of Halltown. These were the first three routes.

Gibson was said to have started his route a few days before the official date of the establishment of the service, and consequently claims the distinction of being the first rural carrier in the United States. His original satchel used in carrying the mail is on exhibition at the Postoffice Department in Washington. Gibson resigned his job when the routes were motorized.



His route on leaving Charles Town postoffice took him out the Leetown road to Brown's Shop; thence backtracking to James

Littleton's Shop; thence north to George Moore's corner; and east several miles to the Will Gibson farm. From there he went north to the Aglinby homestead; thence direct east to the Duffields road and to Flowing Springs. Here he retraced some of his route to the Warm Spring road, and then went to Shaffer's Cross Roads: thence to the Shenandoah River road to Bloomery and to Mechanicstown. From there he went east to Federal Hill; thence to the Keys Ferry road and re-turned to the Charles Town postoffice.

Melvin Strider is still living and at present is in business in Charles Town.

The postoffice in Charles Town at the time of the establishment of the rural free delivery service was located in the old Market House building, one of four sites given to the town by Charles Washington, brother of George Washington, in whose honor the town of Charles Town was named. Washington is said to have built "Happy Retreat" or "Mordington" a short distance from the town limits. The present court house occupies one of the sites and the new federal building another.

In spite of the oposition which continued even after the service was tried, rural free delivery continued. And the first complete county rural service was the next step and that came December 30, 1899, in Carroll county, Maryland.

As the service was extended postal receipts increased, the value of farm lands reached by rural free delivery was enhanced; roads traversed by rural carriers were improved, and consequently better prices were obtained for farm products as the farmers were then able to make daily contact with the market. Now the monotony of farm life has been broken through the receipt of letters and periodicals and also the opportunity improved to know what was happening in the cities and towns throughout the nation.

During the 50 years it has been serving the public, rural free delivery has made great strides and today it is just as modern and up to-date as other services rendered the public. And the routes that used to be covered on horseback are now served in modern automobiles, or trucks and with a great saving in time.

## THE PRICE OF CATTLE

Fifty years ago—to be exact July 18, 1901—beef cattle sold on the Chicago market at \$6.15 per hundred pounds. It was the highest price ever known at that date. At the Charles Town livestock market, Monday, Sept. 10, 1951, medium steers sold for \$31.00 per hundred

## Made Up Initial Rural Routes



ALBERT VERNON GARNEY

The job of making up three of the first five rural free delivery routes in the nation was handled by Albert Vernon Garney, 69-yearold Charles Town man, who was working as a clerk in the Charles Town post office in 1896 when the system was put into operation.

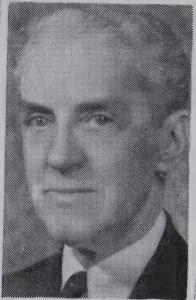
Garney went to work at the post office under the administration of President Harrison and stayed on the clerk's job until after President Cleveland's second administration. When official word was received at the Charles Town post office that rural free delivery was to be tried out, Garney was given the job of contacting the farmers of the county to learn who, and how many, were interested in having their mail delivered to their homes. Many were opposed to it, while others jumped at the idea. After considerable work on Garney's part a petition carrying enough names was signed, and the job of compiling the routes was then started. Three routes were made up, running from the Charles Town post

On resigning his job with the post office, Garney went to the Norfolk & Western Railway as a telegraph operator.

He is the only man still living who was working at the post office when the rural delivery system was initiated.

At present Garney is employed at the Charles Town Race Track and recently at Emery's Bus Terminal in Charles Town.

## One Of Original **Rural Carriers**



MELVIN T. STRIDER

One of the five persons selected to inaugurate the first Rural Free Delivery Service in the nation was Melvin T. Strider, now a promi-nent civic leader and Charles Town business man.

Mr. Strider, a native of Uvilla, Jefferson county, was a lad of only 15 at the time the service was established on Oct. 1, 1896. He was given the job of delivering the mail to rural residents in the vicinity of Uvilla, and served on this job for six years. Then he went to Shenandoah Junction and served another five years, finally being brought into Charles Town to serve out of that location for another six years. His total period of service in delivering mail to residents of various sections of Jefferson county is a little more than 17 years.

Mr. Strider, like the other four carriers, was given a salary of \$200 per year, and was placed under a \$500 bond.

His only means of carrying the mail was either on foot or by bicycle and often during the winter months most of the route had to be covered on foot as the roads were impassable. When it was impossible to get through by bicycle. Mr. Strider would take to walking in order to get the mail through.

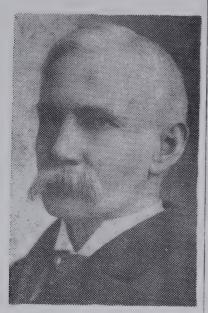
His brother, Charles H. Strider. of near Charles Town, served as his substitute in case of illness.

It was in 1919 that Mr. Strider finally resigned his rural delivery job and went into business in Charles Town with his father. On the death of his father he went into the furniture and undertaking business for himself, and which he conducts today.

He is married and has one married daughter-Mrs. Joseph Chris-



## Was Post Master General



WILLIAM LYNE WILSON

It was during the two-year term of office of the Hon. William Lyne Wilson, prominent Democratic leader, who served as Postmaster General during the second administration of President Grover Cleveland, that the Rural Free Delivery Service was put into operation. And being a native of Charles Town, Mr. Wilson decided to try out the experiment in his own home town and county.
Mr. Wilson, only child of Benja-

man and Mary Lyne Wilson, was born near Middleway in Jefferson county, Virginia, (now West Virginia), May 3, 1843.

He moved to Charles Town with his mother shortly after the death of his father. He was tutored by private teachers and when he became nine years old, entered Char-

les Town Academy.

He attended the Academy for seven years and then in 1858 went to Columbian College, Washington, D. C., entering the junior class. Two years later, at the age of 17, he was graduated with distinction and was offered an assistant professorship. He declined the offer and a few months later entered the University of Virginia with the intention of spending several years there. The war came and he en-listed as a private in the Southern Army. The first year he served in the Infantry, and then joined Company B of the 12th Virginia Cavalry. He served with this outfit until the end of the war. On December 20, 1862, he was taken prisoner and was imprisoned at Fort McHenry, but his confinement lasted only a few days

Following the war, the offer of assistant professorship at Columbian College was renewed and he accepted it. At the same time he enrolled in the Law School there and two years later was graduated. Prevented by the test-oath from practicing law in West Virginia, he continued with his professorship.

On August 6, 1868, he was mar-

ried to Miss Nannie Huntington, daughter of Dr. A. J. Huntington, professor of Greek at Columbian College

In 1871 he resigned his professorship at Columbian College and formed a partnership with his cousin, Captain George Baylor, practicing law in Charles Town. In August, 1874, Mr. Wilson was sent to the Congressional convention at Piedmont as a delegate. He was made chairman of his county delegation. In 1880 he was chosen by the convention to be one of two delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Cincinnati, from his Congressional district

He was elected President of West Virginia University in June, 1882, and took over these duties on September 6. Fourteen days later while attending a prayer-meeting at the Little Baptist Church in Morgantown, he was called to the door and notified of his nomination to Congress. Election date was only three weeks away, but he made an active canvass of his district for votes and won out by a majority of eight votes. He resigned as President of the University March 4, 1883. In July, 1884, he was nominated for Congress and reelected by a plurality of more than 1,500 votes.

Six times Mr Wilson was nominated and elected to Congress. And then in 1892 he was made permanent chairman at the National Democratic Convention in Chicago, Ill., and he was the one to notify President Cleveland of his nomination in a speech at Madison Square Garden.

Mr. Wilson served as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and also as a member of the committee and numerous other Congressional committees.

On the death of Mr. Gray, Min-ser to Mexico, he was widely mentioned for this post, but it was given to another. A few days after President Cleveland had given that appointment to another man, he sent for Mr. Wilson and offered him the post of Postmaster General. He entered upon these duties April 3, 1895.

He was elected president of Washington and Lee University on Feb. 11, 1897 and accepted the office. He surrendered his office as Postmaster General March 6, 1897.

At the time of his death he was Regent of the Smithsonian Intitute; member of the Board of Trustees of the Slater; and of the Peabody Funds; fellow of the Royal Institution of England, and a member of many scientific and historical societies. Five universi-ties had conferred degrees upon him and five had offered him their presidencies. He died October 17. 1900, and was buried at Charles Town.

## Postmaster At Time



Postmaster at the Charles Town Post Office at the time the Rural Free Delivery system was put into operation was George H. Flagg, prominent Jefferson county Democrat who served in that capacity during both terms of President Cleveland's administration. Flagg was operating a large farm near Charles Town when appointed as postmaster on recommendation of William Lyne Wilson who was Congressman from this district at

that time. Wilson was Postmaster General when Flagg received his second appointment.



## Close Beside Potomac Waters Stands Stately Shepherd College

By DONALD R. RENTCH

One of the main factors by which the citizens of any community, state or country can, and usually are measured, is the lengthened shadows and monumental traditions of their educational institutions because it is these which reflect the imaginations, the real, the hopes, the aspirations and determinations of a truly conscious group of democratic people.

Shepherd State Teachers College, located close beside the Potomac waters in the charming old and historic town of Shepherds-town, is truly a perpetual monument to such a group of far-sighted democratic people who once trod the historic grasses of West Virginia's first town.

Like other good things in history that came about as the result of a dispute over an entirely different matter, Shepherd College had its origin from a dispute over the location of the county seat of Jefferson county.

### COLLEGE CAME OUT OF DISPUTE

It has many times been said and proven, that some good always comes out of everything regardless of how bad it might seem. And so from this dispute over the location of the county seat Shepherdstown gained a college.

It was in October 6, 1859, or nearly one hundred years ago that the cornerstone for what later became Shepherd College was laid. When the building was first erected, however, by Rezin D. Shepherd on the legendary site of Fort Shepherd of pre-Revolutionary War days, it was a community building, erected for community uses.

Then when the West Virginia legislature passed an act on January 26, 1865 moving the seat of Jefferson county from Town to Shepherdstown, the community building was taken over for use as a Court House and served this purpose until 1871. Then the West Virginia Legislature repealed acts of January 26, 1865 and February 1866, and restored the county seat to Charles Town.

This left the huge structure built by Rezin for community use, and later enlarged for use as the courthouse, a vacant building.

It was at this time that the country was going through a reconstruction period following the Civil War and in the Shepherdstown district it was felt that old Shepherdstown Academy which was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly in January 1814, was serving the needs of the people of the town and section only to a limited extent. There was also a Shepherdstown Female Classical School at the same time and the two functioned in close cooperation. Still the people felt that neither, or both, of these schools were satisfactory and besides they were experiencing great financial difficulty. In time both the Acad-emy and Female Classical School passed from the picture and so it was only natural for the people of Shepherdstown, or at least a group of them, to be interested in starting a classical and scientific school.

Shepherdstown and the surrounding country had its classical academies, its female seminaries, its boy's schools and its girl's schools from time immemorial, and so the aspirations and determinations for furthering education in Shepherdstown and the section were there and ripe for development.

A group of the more farsighted persons who were interested in educational advancement for state and national solidarity contacted Mr. Shepherd Brooks of Boston, Mass., a grandson of Rezin D. Shepherd for permission to use the vacant community building which his grandfather had built, as a classical and scientific school.

#### INSTITUTE ORGANIZED

He granted such permission and after a lease had been arranged the 'Classical and Scientific Institute' was organized in June 1871.

A board of trustees headed by Dr. C. W. Andrews, rector of the Episcopal Church in Shepherds-town, engaged Mr. Joseph McMurran, a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College, to serve as the principal. Mr. McMurran had served as principal of academies or private schools in Shepherdstown, in Alabama and in South Carolina and was well-qualified for the job.

The board of trustees which also included George M. Beltzhoover as secretary-treasurer, Alex R. Bote-ler, Henry Shepherd, C. T. Butler,

Davis Billmyer and Samuel Knott,

also hired three teachers.

Had not the Federal Supreme
Court in 1870 left Jefferson and and Berkeley counties a part of West Virginia, the Institute might have continued to function indefinitely as such. But for residents of these counties this was an epochmaking decision, and a few of them made the best of it. They were encouraged by the fact that the Democrats with a strong pro-Southern element in command, were then in control of the State government. And accordingly they launched a movement to convert the Classical and Scientific Institute into a branch of the State Normal School.

For that purpose this same group of trustees who had pioneered the Institute had themselves incorporated as "Shephero College on January 12, 1872, and the school was authorized to offer instruction" in languages, arts and sciences.

In keeping with the wishes of these promoters of the school, the West Virginia Legislature on February 27, 1872, forty-five days after Shepherd College had been in-corporated and less than a year after the Institute had been organized saw Shepherd College made a branch of the State Normal School.



#### BESET BY FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

During the first five years the college was continually beset by financial difficulties. The State of West Virginia was also in its infancy and the Legislature was somewhat negligent in appropriating funds for the school's operation. Then too, when the Legislature established a branch of the State Normal School at Shepherd College, it did so with the proviso that the said building and lot on which it was erected should fitted up in a suitable manner for the purpose of such a school and conveyed in fee or for a term of years not less than ten, assigned or original, free of charge to the State for such fitting up upon occupancy. The interested parties were unable to comply with these requirements and in 1872 the work of the college was continued under direction of its board of trustees.

So it was that it was not until April 12, 1873 actually that the college was placed under the jurisdiction and control of the Regents of the State Normal School.

Because it was aiready a functioning institution, Shepherd College began its normal school phase with a larger enrollment-145than any of the other state Normal Schools. And also unlike any of the other Normal Schools, it had a graduating class the first year, the first commencement being held June 26, 1874, with 21 graduates receiving certificates.

The first curriculum of the normal department consisted largely of spelling, reading, defining, history, bookkeeping, geography, English grammar, and the theory of art teaching. In the academic department the courses were more difficult, such as Latin grammar, Greek grammar, algebra, geometry, and physical geography, with French and German as optional subjects.

During the early years the colcontinually beset by filege was nancial difficulties and there were times had it not been for the generous contributions from the townspeople and from small tuition fees collected, the college could not have made it. From time to time Mr. McMurran extended financial assistance from his own personal income, and one time the teachers waited a whole year for their salaries.

It was also in 1874 that the first Shepherd College catalogue was published.

Then in 1875 the enrollment jumped to 160, but thereafter it declined rapidly largely because of the failure of the legislature to make an appropriation for salaries. As a matter of fact the enrollment fell to 55 for 1879-80, the low water mark.

During the next fourteen years the enrollment ranged from 55 to |

99 and it was only slightly above the 100 mark at the turn of the century.

#### SERVED AS CHALLENGE

These declining fortunes, however, served as a challenge college Alumni Association which was organized in June 1877, also to other interested individuals.

In 1883 Professor McMurran retired and accepted a position on the board of Trustees and Professor D. D. Pendleton served as principal from 1883 until 1886 during which time the college continued to prosper.

Then in 1886 when Mr. T. J. Woofter became principal he revised the curricula and effected an equivalency between preparatory courses of West Virginia University and Shepherd College.

In 1888 Mr. Asa Bush was appointed principal and he added several new courses in the cultural arts division and new impetus was given the scientific studies. The given the scientific studies. following year a second building was added to the college through the generosity of Mrs. Kate Reynolds, for whom the building was later named.

In 1892 E. Mode Vale took over the administration of the college and he immediately launched a campaign for the extension of facilities, which resulted in the authorization to buy four parcels of real estate for contemplated further expansion of the college.

This was the first major move on the wide expansion program which the college has gone through

down through the years.

Mr. A. C. Kilmer became principal in 1893 and it was during his administration that the college newspaper "The Pickett" was first published in 1896.

From 1901 to 1903 Mr. E. Goodwin served as principal and then in 1903 Professor John G. Knutti became principal and served until the Summer of 1909 when he died of typhoid fever. The Board of Regents then selected Thomas C. Miller who had just a part) furnished a company of completed eight years as State Su-soldiers, captaied by Elisha Boyd, perintendent of Free Schools, to head the college and he served until the flu epidemic of 1918-19 Whiskey Repellion Pennsylvania in 1794. claimed him as one of its victims and in 1920 W. H. S. White, an experienced West Virginia educa- POULTRY AND EGGS 

Following his retirement October all the sheep in the state. 1947, he was succeeded by Dr. Oliver S. Ikenberry, former professor of education at Salem College and dean of its faculty, who is currently serving as president of the college.

Shepherd College was a recognized state-supported, four-year, liberal arts, co-educational institution under the supervision of the West Virginia State Board of Education. It is now fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. The institution is a member of the American Council on Education and the American Association of Colleges. Graduates of Shepherd College enter the leading graduate and professional schools of the nation with full credit.

Today the college has a faculty of more than 30 instructors who are graduates of the leading colleges and universities of the nation as against the principal and three teachers in 1871. And during the past 80 years Shepherd College has sent more than 3,000 graduates into the world to become distinguished lawyers, doctors, ministers, social workers, business leaders and many other types of professional people.

#### "GREATER SHEPHERD"

In 1947, the year which Dr. Ikenberry took over the reigns at Shepherd College, a "greater Shepherd College" program was assured with the purchase of 25 acres of land for the expansion of the college campus. A new \$500,000 Health and Physical Building is now being constructed at Shepherd College. It will contain two basketball courts, a swimming pool, a student center, two classrooms, a health center, offices and athletic facilities.

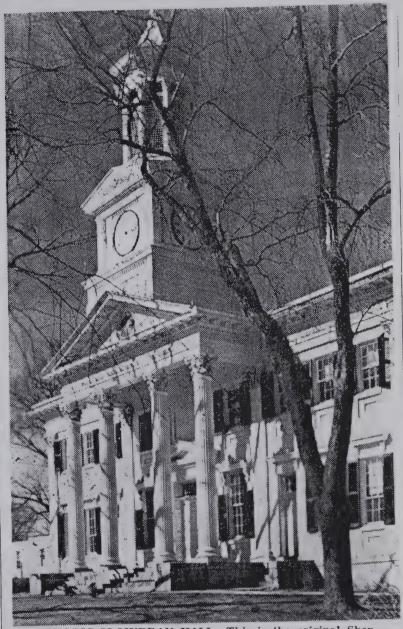
A site is also being prepared for a new \$400,000 men's dormitory at the college which will provide modern housing facilities for 150 Shepherd College students.

For 80 years Shepherd College has been serving the youth of West Virginia and the nation. The college has not been standing still in its service to humanity. Its physical development has been slow, but sure, advancing conservatively with civilization. And while the growth of the college was slow and steady for many years, in recent years it has been most unusual and today it has after more than three-quarters of a century of progress taken its rightful place among the top colleges of the state and nation.

#### THE WHISKEY REBELLION

Berkeley county (Jefferson then then 25 years old, who served under General Daniel Morgan, in the Whiskey Rebellion in Western





HISTORIC McMURRAN HALL—This is the original Shepherd College building erected by Rezin D. Shepherd in 1860 for use as a community building. A lease was obtained on the building which became vacant in 1871 with the removal of the county seat from Shepherdstown to Charles Town and it became the home of the "Classical and Scientific Institute" which was organized in June 1871 and later became Shepherd College. It contains six commodious rooms for classes in music, journalism and public speaking.



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# Storer College Born Experiment In Consecration Harpers Ferry

In counting the blessings of its 150 years of history and progress Jefferson county can proudly boast, and rightfully so, of the many fields for which the pioneering work was done within its boundaries and of the accomplishments which have played a major role in the development of the section, state and nation and also in making of history.

Jefferson county can boast of being among the first to realize the importance of education and to work for its advancement. And it was the first county in West Virginia, and also in the South, to do anything about the education of the Negro following his liberation from cruel and demoralizing bondage.

#### FIRST IN SOUTH

It was at Harpers Ferry, the place where many of the fiercest battles of the Civil War were fought that the first institution for the education of the Negro people was established in the South. And the facility was named Storer College after John Storer of Sanford, Maine, who in February 1867 offered to donate \$10,000 towards the founding of a Negro school somewhere in the South.

In making his offer Storer did not designate any location for the school, the only stipulation being that the amount he was donating be matched by any other society interested in the founding of such

It was only through the efforts of Dr. O. B. Cheney, then President of Bates College and the Rev. N. C. Brackett, a Baptist missionary for the Negro people, that it was located at Harpers Ferry.

Miss K. J. Anthony of Providence, R. I., in a paper presented at Ocean Park, Aug. 15, 1883, gave probably what was one of the best accounts of the founding of Storer College. She pictures the founding of this first Negro college in the South as an outstanding accomplishment in Home Missions work. The Civil War had left four mil-

The Civil War had left four million men, women and children, liberated from slavery and they were all stretching forth helpless and appealing hands for mental, moral and spiritual aid. And the only direction in which they could look was to the North.

RESPONDED TO CALL

The glare and noise of the bursting of the Civil War shells had hardly died away when the Free Baptist responded to the call of the liberated Negroes for help.

It had been agreed with the American Missionary Association that the beautiful valley of the Shenandoah should be left with the Free Baptists people to cultivate. In this valley which extended for 160 miles in length and 30 miles wide, the freedmen were generally acknowledged to be more enterprising and intelligent than in most sections of the South.

Missionaries were stationed at various points in the Valley from Harpers Ferry to Lexington to inaugurate and carry forward day schools, night schools and Sabbath schools. And the entire area was placed under the supervision of the Rev. N. C. Brackett, a young man peculiarly qualified for the position and responsibility.

Brackett had gained a deep insight into the capabilities of the colored people while serving under the Christian Commission in the Shenandoah Valley during the last year of the Civil War. As Superintendent of Schools for the valley under the Freedmen's Bureau, Brackett handled the preliminary education work by setting up an operation at Harpers Ferry in the same old government building which two years later became the birthplace of Storer College.

As this work progressed the vital necessity of Normal Schools became apparent, as it was necessary to further prepare those who had mastered the rudiments of education for the job of going forth as teachers and ministers to aid in elevating the Negro race. Missionaries were quick to recognize the fact that colored teachers could do efficient work in fields where no white person could enter. Many facts showed that the salvation of the freedmen demanded that instructors and helpers be raised from the colored ranks and that the chief energies of the Northern workers should be bent in this diSTORER MADE OFFER

In February 1867 when Storer made his offer to Dr. Cheney, who had gone to visit Storer in the

interest of Bates College, this seemed to be the opening of the way to meet this urgent need to help educate the Negro in the South.

In making the offer Storer said "I have determined to give \$10,000 to some society which will raise and equal the amount toward the founding of a Negro school in the South. I should prefer that the Free Baptist congregation have the money, but I fear they cannot, or will not meet the condition. I am old and I desire to see the school started before I die, so as you came I was writing to the American Missionary Association making the same proposal, and I am confident they will accept and rapidly advance the project," Storer told Dr. Cheney.

In reply Dr. Cheney pleaded that he be allowed to make an effort. He told Storer of the Southern enterprise, of its needs and added a school in the Shenandoah Valley is just what we must have in order to carry forward the work.

Storer agreed that Dr. Cheney should have until July to try and then if he saw evidence of something in earnest being done, the time would be extended until January 1868. It was Storer's wish that the institution eventually become a college and it be so chartered—with a proviso that it be operated as a Normal School or Seminary till the endowment funds should be adequate for college purposes; And that it be open to both sexes without distinction of race or color.

Miss Anthony in her report of the founding of Storer College states our people gratefully accepted the proposition and vigorous measures were started at once to raise the other \$10,000 required. Some \$4,000 of the amount was raised at a remarkable meeting held at Fairport, N. Y., in June 1867 and then Dr. Cheney went South to confer with the Rev. Brackett.



### PURCHASED LAND

Dr. Cheney and Rev. Brackett decided that Harper's Ferry would be the most advantageous location for the school and a farm of 150 acres was purchased on Bolivar Heights, about a half mile from the present site. Dr. Cheney then went on to Washington and laid the plans for the school before Gen. O. O. Howard of the Freedmen's Bureau. Here he received hearty sympathy and encouragement in a promise of \$6,000 from that department.

Dr. Cheney also visited Secretary Stanton and Senator Fessenden, and at a later date he went to see Gen. James A. Garfield, to influence in a grant of Government land on Camp Hill at Harpers Ferry. The project was most kindly and favorably received by all of them.

The property concerned consisted of four large, brick mansions, former residences of the officers of the Government works, and though greatly injured during the war would be of inestimable value to the educational enterprise. One of these buildings had been loaned to Brackett and he had been using it in the school work.

Then at the annual meeting of the Home Mission Board in Northwood, N. H., June 6, 1867, a body, composed of 25 gentlemen, was organized under the name of "The Commission for the Promotion and Education in the South." To enable this group to transact and carry forward all necessary business an Act of Incorporation from the New Hampshire Legislature was secured and the organization legally effected on July 24. During its early existence the college interests and affairs were conducted under this commission.

On Monday, October 2, 1867, Storer College began its noble work of educating the Negro in the South. The college began with 19 pupils, all from the immediate vicinity and with one assistant teacher, Mrs. W. L. Smith of Maine, serving under Rev. Brackett as principal.

The college was opened in the Government building known as "Lockwood House" and this one building served for dwelling house, school and church.

With this humble beginning the efforts to obtain a gift of this Government property were redoubled. Dr. James Calder of Harrisburg, was especially active in furthering this project and finally through the earnest suport of Mr. Fessenden in the Senate and Gen. Garfield in the House a bill to this effect passed Congress December 3, 1868 and the four buildings with seven acres of land, worth about \$30,000, became the property of the institution. Had these efforts failed the site of Storer College would have been Bolivar Heights Farm. As it was the farm, through cultivation and sale of lots, largely assisted in the school during its infancy.

Then in September 1867 the Freedmen's Bureau donated \$500 which was used in making repairs and soon after the school opened, paid over the \$6,000 to a temporary Stock Company organized under the laws of West Virginia. But the Bureau did far more than it had promised and as long as it existed continued to render generous and efficient aid to the college. Among its other benefactions were \$4,000 to renovate the shattered government buildings, and about \$1,500 towards the running expenses. Altogether, including about \$4,000 for the erection, in 1868, of Lincoln Hall — a boarding-hall for boys-the Freedmen's Bureau contributed \$18,000 toward the upbuilding of Storer College.

#### GRANTED CHARTER

It was not until March 3, 1868, that the college was granted a charter by the West Virginia Legislature and this action met with intense and violent opposition and was carried only by one vote.

Judge Hoke, a prominent Union man during the Civil War, who had been a member of the Commission administering the affairs of the college, was quick to realize that the vote on granting the charter would be a close one and so he resigned his post on the Commission in order to have a vote on the issue. It so happened that his vote proved to be the decisive one. Later Judge Hoke was re-elected a trustee of the college and he served as an active promoter of the institution for many years.

Storer College grew rapidly, the enrollment increasing from the original nineteen pupils in October to 36 by January of the next year. And in March when the charter was granted it had an enrollment of 75 students.

Although there was considerable opposition in the community and section for some time after the school was opened, through the earnest efforts of those who were

interested in, and supporting the college, progress was made and through the years Storer College outgrew its school accommodations. Two movements started simultaneously, however, brought in the \$10,000 which carried the cost of expanding the facility. And on down through the years the college has continued to grow, both in enrollment and in buildings, educational facilities and studies until today the enrollment figures for last year numbered 274 as against the 19 when the college began operations back in 1867.

When the college opened in 1867 there was only Rev. Brackett as principal and one assistant teacher. Today there are 32 members of the faculty and 15 others who handle the administrative end of the college business with Richard Ishmael McKinney as President of the College and Dr. Henry T. McDonald, who served as head of the college for many years, as President Emeritus.

Today, including the campus and other property located in Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, Storer College owns about 30 acres of land as against the seven acres in 1868. Today also there are nine buildings on the college campus as against the one which was borrowed from the government. And so the experiment in consecration which was tried in the historic town of Harpers Ferry has raid invaluable dividends in years of services and usefulness.

# News From Old Papers

(From The Virginia Free Press, Charles Town, Wednesday, Feb. 14, 1894 — W. W. B. Gallaher, Editor.)

Garland Smallwood, of Harpers Ferry had a leg fractured whilst taking a barrel of sugar from a wagon.



GATEWAY TO EDUCATION—Storer College, the first Negro College established in the South after the Civil War, is one of the oldest schools of its kind in the United States. Founded by Baptists in the North, it served for 25 years as the only school for Negroes offering educational opportunities above the elementary level in West Virginia. The first \$1,000 appropriated specifically for education of Negroes by West Virginia went to this state institution. The college still receives some of its support from the state, but it is under the control, however, of a Board of Trustees.



# Acknowledgments ...



R. J. FUNKHOUSER
Editor-In-Chief
The Jefferson Republican

Valuable material, text, comments and general information in this Sesqui-Centennial Edition of The Jefferson Republican has been furnished by many sources. A vast amount of the rarest and unpublished material is contained in the thirty-two-page, two-part special edition, and all at hand has by no means been included. However, if this effort and the contents of these pages are in any manner appreciated by the reader—and it is all dedicated to the glory of Jefferson county—recognition and thanks go to the following:

Edward L. Blake, Managing Editor of The Jefferson Republican; Donald R. Rentch, staff writer; H. Paul Burdette, General Superintendent, who conceived and developed the idea of this special historical and progress edition.

Col. Robert Lee Bates, native of Middleway (Smithfield), Professor of Philosophy, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.; A. D. Kenamond, former Dean of Shepherd College, Judge and Member of the West Virginia Court of Claims, Shepherdstown; Dr. Henry T. McDonald, President Emeritus of Storer College, Author and Historian, and Member of Governor Patteson's Special Commission for the Creation of Harpers Ferry National Monument, resident of Harpers Ferry; Millard K. Bushong, A.M., Ph.D., Professor of History, University of Richmond, Richmond, Va.; Dr. Oliver S. Ikenberry, President of Shepherd College, Shepherdstown; Kate J. Anthony, Historian of Storer College, 1891; F. B. Voegele, Pontiac, Michigan; Mrs. Charlotte Judd Fairbairn, Charles Town; Mrs. Mary T. Miller, Miss Lucy Ambler, Mrs. John Ambrose, G. K. Wysong, Sr., Thornton T. Perry, Miss Betty Whitmore, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Kemp, Mrs. Nan L. Hatchell, Miss Louise Briscoe, all of Charles Town; Mrs. Marianna Ross of Harpers Ferry; the Charles Town Library; Shepherd College and Handley Library of Winchester, Va.; Mrs. J. W. Strider of Leetown, and Harper & Brother of New York City. Many others assisted in furnishing important material.

From the staff of The Jefferson Republican contributing to this special publication are: David E. McMillan Jr. and Mrs. McMillan and John Carpenter, Caskie Norvell, II, Mrs. John S. Alfriend, G. K. (Buck) Wysong, and Miss Frances Barfield. And the following of the mechanical staff: Ralph Board, Edward Arnott, Lawrence Cramer, Fred A. Murphy and James Gregory.



# Standing As A Tribute To A Venture Of Faith Is Charles Town General Hospital

In these days when the password in Jefferson county seems to be "History and Progress" it would be a grave mistake to overlook the story of the Charles Town General Hospital, because its history from its beginning, through its struggles and even to its outstanding accomplishments and progress, is certainly a parallel to the history of all

Jefferson county.

While the history of the hospital does not extend as far back through the years as does that of the county's, the manner in which its pioneers and supporters mastered the difficulties which seemed almost insuperable; and the many years which it has rendered devoted service to all those who came and went, have produced the same interesting story of history and progress as has the county.

ALL HAD PART IN IT

Like the history of Jefferson county, the building of the Charles Town General Hospital was, and is, something which all peoples o. the county had a part in. And it is something which belongs to all

the people of the county.

It was some 50 years ago that a group of farsighted men and women of Jefferson county had visions of a place where medical science could be practiced for the saving and lengthening of lives. And these people felt so deeply about these visions they were willing to spend their substance and themselves for

The need for a health center for all people pressed upon the hearts and people pressed upon the hearts and minds of many of Jefferson county's peoples for so long the current thought seemed to spring into action, and thus came the challenge to build a hospital.

Those first souls who pioneered the bringing into being of a hospital showed the same courage

pital showed the same courage, vision and stamina as did the pioneers who came over the Blue Ridge mountains and settled Jeff-

erson county.

Of course the early pioneers of the hospital did not visualize a living institution such as stands today. But neither did the first settlers of the county visualize the tremendous progress which the county has made in the past 150

But like the settling of the county, those early pioneers of the hospital movement planted the seed and it has grown steadily and soundly into a great humanitarian institution that has become dear to the hearts of the living and also of a goodly number who have passed cn. Those who conceived the idea and worked for its development to realization, had faith in their project and were not mere visionaries, but rather leaders and workers.

These early pioneers of the hospital were not praise seekers, even though they did merit it. They were serving so that all could live longer and happier lives.

Many of these people had watched for years how the injured. sick and lame had to be cared for with no facilities for so doing. They had seen how people had died because of the lack of these facilities.
Then shortly after the turn of

the 20th Century a new word be-came almost the by-word in medi-cine—"operation."

SERVED AS CHALLENGE At first the word brought fear into the hearts and minds of people. And it was partially this fear, plus the great desire to give their all to restore health and to continue life for the happiness of all mankind which made these people accept such a big challenge at a time when conditions were most trying.

A half century ago when men, women and children were stricken with an illness or injury which required a surgical they either died because such could not be performed, or nature corrected the situation in time.

Early in the 20th Century, how-ever, doctors in Jefferson county, and in the section generally, began performing emergency surgicals.
But they had to be done under the
most trying conditions. And often they were not too successful be-cause of the lack of facilities for such medical treatment.

Back in those days when ill-Back in those days when illnesses were diagnosed as operative cases, the late Dr. A. O. Albin and the late Dr. Richard Venning of Charles Town and sometimes the late Dr. C. C. Lucas of Kearneys-ville, were forced to perform their operations in private homes.

Usually the kitchen or dining room table in the home would serve as the operating table and the facilities in the kitchen of the

home were used for sterilizing the instruments.

In those days it was a familiar sight in Charles Town to see "Uncle" Lou Rutherford driving his spring wagon loaded with a wash boiler of dressings, basins and other necessary articles and a lard can filled with hot water, at all hours of the day or night over the town's streets. Yes, and sometimes it could be seen on the back country roads. Wherever it was seen usually following close behind he wagon would be a doctor.

In those days they were taking the hospital to the ratient.

But by 1904 the wise and conscientious doctors of the county decided there was an easier way of not only administering to the sick, but also of performing operations. They defided that Jefferson county must have a hospital, even if it had to be only on a limited basis.

Dr. Venning was the first one to take visible and definite steps to-

wards providing such an institu-tion when in December of 1904 he converted the second floor of his home to use as a hospital. He built five bedrooms, one bath, an operating room and a sterilizing room and this was the nucleus of Char-les Town and Jefferson county's first hospital.

Dr. Venning and his wife continued to operate the hospital as a place for the doctors of the county to bring their patients and perform their operations until the Fall of 1909, when they rented it to the late Miss Anna Hughes of

Charles Town.

Then in 1911 after he had built and established a residence on some land adjoining the hospital property, Dr. Venning made it possible for the entire structure to be used as a hospital and once again he took over management of the facility. A short time later he sold the facility to a group of stockholders for \$10,000. Residents of the county were canvassed for gifts and urged to purchase stock in the hospital; and as a result of the fine response it was no time at all before the building was remodeled and enlarged and given the name of the Charles Town General Hospital. It was created as an "eleemosynary" or non-profit institution and thus excluded from taxation. Today it remains as the same type of institution.

WILLIAM ROUSS FIRST PRES.

The first meeting of the board of directors of the hospital was held Feb. 5, 1912 at 4 p.m. and William W. Rouss was named as the first president of the hospital board. Named as the first vicepresident was Dr. C. L. Skinner, with Dr. Albin being named secretary and W. O. Norris as treasurer. A board of management composed of Dr. R. E. Venning, Dr. William Neill and S. L. Phillips was also named.

Miss Hallie Washington, a Johns Hopkins graduate, served as the first instructor and supervisor of nurses for the hospital, with Miss Edith McGarry of Shenandoah Junction being the first student

The completed story of how these courageous people faired with their momentous venture is provided in the new and modern Charles Town General Hospital which was dedicated October 3, 1948. That was the day the old hospital which had served the county so long and so faithfully for 45 years, passed out of the picture of Jefferson county's everyday life, but not out of the county's history. That was the day when the doors of a new and modern haven of healing and rest were swung wide for all to enter regardless of race, creed or color. And that was the day a new chapter was written in Jefferson county's story of history and progress.

Yes, in the past 50 years much has taken place in the history and progress of medicine and its prac-

tice in Jefferson county.

The history of the Charles Town General Hospital will always stand as a venture of faith. And it was a triumphant venture because men and women had vision and they had faith. It stands as a challenge to those of today to measure up to the faith of those of yesteryears and to bravely carry on.

The editor of the Shepherdstown Register purchased a site for an office building, paying \$1,150, cash, therefor, and will erect a brick building thereon. It is an evidence of prosperity we are pleased to note.

We are informed the B. & O. expects to run the first regular train over the new bridge at Harpers Ferry the 22nd of this month.

## First Newspaper **Publisher Was** Slave Dealer

By F. B. VOEGELE

It seems odd to read of such a strict Puritan as Nathaniel Willis, the New England editor of West Virginia's first newspaper estab-lished in Shepherdstown in 1790, and later Martinsburg's first newspaper, as a slave owner, and also buying and selling slaves.

Working in the same print shop as Benjamin Franklin had earlier worked, he is credited with also being in the Boston Tea Party.

He sold out his Boston news-

paper and being a widower, moved south to Winchester, where in 1789, he married Miss Mary Cart-mell, a member of that prominent Frederick County family. Publishing briefly a newspaper in Winthe publication of The Potowmac Guardian and Berkeley Advertiser.

Several years later he moved his printing office to Martinsburg.

His newspaper at Shepherds-town was full of ads of Apply to the Printer for buying, selling, and hiring of slaves, men, women and children.

He probably acted as agent for dealers and again no doubt, dealt

In the first United States census in 1790, it is surprising to note the number of slaves held in the northern states. In New England. New Hampshire had 157, Connecticut had 26,648 and Rhode Island had 958. New York State had 21,193 and 10,851 in 1810 and over 7,000 when she abolished slavery July 4, 1827. New Jersey had 11,423 in 1790 and 18 in 1860 at the start of the Civil War. In 1860 "Bleed-ing Kansas" had 2, Nebraska 15 and Utah Territory 29

Massachusetts abolished slavery after the Revolutionary War. The principal effect of the northern abolition of slavery was simply to transfer northern slaves to south-

ern markets.

# Marksmanship Is **Early Diversion**

There was no worry about a boy 12 or 13 years old not being able to handle a rifle in the early days of the section which is now West Virginia. At that age every lad was provided with a rifle and a shot pouch and was assigned a post hole at the fort nearest the home of the family. Hunting squirrels, rac-coons, and the like soon made a lad expert in the use of a gun. Shooting at marks was a common diversion of the men and this was an incentive to the young boys to do their best. The present method of shooting was unknown then; all shots were fired from a rest.



It was in December 1904 that the second floor of Dr. Richard Venning's home (shown) above was converted for use as Charles Town's first hospital. Conversion of this part of Dr. Venning's house provided five bedrooms, one bath, an operating room and a sterilizing room. Shown in the picture standing of the front steps of the first hospital are: (in front) Miss Valley Markle, Mrs. Bates Hammond; center row, Miss Anna Hughes, Mrs. Pearl Warening, Miss Laura. And standing in the background are Dr. A. O. Albin and Dr. Richard



# Through Water Courses, Over The Blue Ridges **Came Men And Women** To Freedom Of Religion

By MRS. JOHN S. ALFRIEND

Long before Jefferson county was formed in 1801, and when West Virginia was still a part of Virginia, history shows that the churches in this section played a very important part in the development of the county. Even before the Revolutionary War, residents of what is now Jefferson county, were church-minded, congregating in meeting houses and private dwellings to worship God and to seek His blessing.

The formation of churches in early days was not an easy task, with the slow method of travel presenting no little obstacle for a clergyman to minister to his widely

scattered flock.

Trials and tribulations were present during the War between the States when some of the church buildings that the congregations had worked so hard to establish were desecrated and defaced. Nevertheless Jefferson county pioneers withstood all these years of discouragement, and today we find the churches of Jefferson county strong and active, resplendent in their faith, bearing true witness of the age-old hymn, "How Firm a Foundation".

#### PRESBYTERIANS WERE FIRST IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

The congregation of the Potomoke Presbyterian Church, the earliest church in Jefferson coun-ty, was presumably formed as far back as 1719, when on September 19 of that year, records show that the Philadelphia Synod received a letter from the people of Poto-moke, Va., requesting that a minister be sent to them. In accordance with their request, Rev. Daniel Mc-Gill was sent to minister to the congregation. The exact location of the Potomoke Church is not known but certain facts point out that it was in the vicinity of Shepherds-

In 1740 or possibly a year or two before, members of the Presbyterian denomination erected a building at the headspring of Big Bull-However, it was not until November 25, 1771, that the land was deeded by David Castleman and wife to trustees of the church. Although the church was known as the Bullskip Church was known as the Bullskin Church, its ecclesiastical name was Hopewell.

The congregation of the Charles Town Presbyterian Church was formed in 1787, members purchasing a lot from Mildred and Charles Washington on the Berryville Pike. Here the first church was builtan attractive stone structure under the guidance of the first minister, William Hill, D.D., who was ordained to the ministry in historic St. George's Chapel, a short distance from Charles Town. The congregation outgrew the original edifice and a second church was built in 1828 during the ministry of the Rev. Septimus Tustin. Continuing their worship in the second church building for ten years, the church became once more small for its growing congregation and in 1851, a third building was erected. Today it houses the congregation of the present Presbyterian Church in Charles Town and is located on Washington St., on ground given for the church and manse by the late John Stephenson, a generous church worker and prominent man in the community.

## FOURTEEN PERSONS FORM FIRST BAPTIST GROUP

Records show that the Baptist denomination had their beginning in Jefferson county April 24, 1792, when fourteen persons met to form the congregation. Naming it "Zoar", "because she was a little one", the ministers present were Andrew Broaddus, Lewis Lunsford and Henry Toler. Christopher Collins, a teacher and one of the founders of the Charles Town Academy, who owned a plantation near town with thirty odd slaves and an extensive library, was their spiritual leader and church clerk. They worshipped at his home for nine years, receiving, dismissing and disciplining members, but were without the ordinances until 1799.

In February of 1799, with rasting and prayer, they sought guidance from God as to whether they should disband or should continue as a church and call "Brother" Collins to the ministry. In April they called him and on November again fasting, Elders Thomas Bridges, and Absalom Waller and Zoar Church, as his credentials stated, ordained him.

In 1801 a house was purchased by the congregation from Jesse Hall, which was formerly named Zoar Meeting House. This was a wooden building, and stood about two miles south of Shenandoah Junction, near the site of the stone church called Zoar which the congregation built some years later, and in 1877 seld for a private dwelling. Mr. Collins remained as pastor until his death in 1808, and the Rev. Francis Moore, ardent advocate of missions, succeeded him and was pastor until his death in The third pastor, Rev. William Marvin took the anti-mission side and before he left, inducted into the ministry a member whom the church did not think suitable. The members generally declined to hear him or to sustain his cause and the large and respectable congregation was dispersed. Elder Baker resuscitated the church on December 24, 1844 and served as pastor until October 13, 1855. He preached once a month on Saturday and Sunday, coming from Front Royal, Va., on horseback. The missionary society of the Goshen Association paid him forty dollars the first year and two members of Zoar, two dollars; the second year the Goshen Society paid fifty dollars and two other members of Zoar, seven dollars.

In the summer of 1856 the Zoar Church moved their place of worship to Charles Town where services were held in the brick school house or the court house.

In April 1857 the entire square in which the Baptist church in Charles Town now stands, was purchased, two lots sold and a brick church building begun. The lower room was occupied in 1859. Workmen putting on the roof witnessed the execution of John Brown. When the War between the States broke out the church was unfinished and after 1862 "it was frequently occupied by troops and finally abandoned, a stable being made out of the south end. During 1864 the pastor continued his visits but preached in the Presbyterian and Episcopal churches."



form September, 1860 to December, 1865, though the church met whenever it was possible. Until 1873, Zoar and Wiltshire's school house were the usual meeting places and sometimes services were held on the banks of the Opequor at Baker's Mill or the Flowing Spring, for baptisms were very frequent in those times of trial. The lower room of the Charles Town Baptist Church was restored sufficiently to be used again on August 31, 1873, and the upper room was completed in 1881. On September 13, 1914, the present church building was dedicated, the old one having been torn down because it was reported unsafe.

# METHODISTS WERE IN AREA AT EARLY DATE

The story of Methodism in Northern Virginia would not be complete without mentioning its early proponent, Bishop Francis Asbury, who preached in Winchester, Va., as early as 1772. The doctrines of Wesley soon took hold Fithian in his journal reported the preaching of Methodism at the Springs in Bath (Berkeley Springs. Morgan county, W. Va.) in September 1775. On June 2, 1782, Bishop Asbury expounded Methodism in Martinsburg, W. Va. Those who heard him saw a tall man with fine forehead and penetrating, sympathetic eyes. He wore a plain frock coat and tight-fitting clothes which were somewhat generally disheveled from his arduous traveling. His hat, with broad brim and low crown, topped his long hair. Bishop Asbury possessed the dignity of a patriarch who, in reaching a doctrine of sin and redemption, held out the hope of heaven, and strove to implant a fear of hell.

One of the early Methodist churches was established in Middleway (Smithfield) erected prior to 1800.

Leesburg, Va. had its first conference in 1778, and Berkeley Circuit was formed about 1786, which covered all of the territory that had been penetrated by Methodist pioneers in the Valley of Virginia We find several years later that Bishop Francis Asbury preached for some time in Shepherdstown and following the route of Braddock through the Valley, it is certain that he passed near Charles Town.

Dr. Edward Tiffin is on record as having been converted under the eloquence of the Rev. Thomas Scott, one of the Valley's itinerants, while preaching near Charles Town. Mr. Scott later became a Chief Justice in Ohio and Dr. Tiffin went to Ohio and became governor of that state.

Jefferson Methodist Circuit came



ZION EPISCOPAL CHURCH of Charles Town will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the present church building on December 6, 1951, the third edifice on the same site. The first church was in use in 1816; in 1846 a second church was started and was burned in 1848, the third and present building was dedicated December 6, 1851.

into existence in 1817, when Charles Town became an appointment on that charge with the Rev. John G. Watt as preacher. The first G. Watt as preacher. The first Methodist church building in Charles Town of which there are any records, was built in 1857, under the pastorate of the Rev. Norval Wilson. It was a stone structure, located at the head of North Charles Street, the grounds bounded on the North by the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. During the War between the States, this church building was used as a hospital for the soldiers and after the war was over the property, originally deeded to the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Northern Church laid claim to it, and by decree of the court. Charles Davies was appointed to sell the property on November 15, 1870. The Southern Methodist congregation purchased the property for \$575 and settled it on Reason Shugart, Thomas Johnson, William H. Henson, Thomas Locke, James M. Brown, George W. Briscoe, Richard A. Hessey, Esrom Slifer and Jacob Haines, as the first Board of Trustees. Three years later, in 1873, Jefferson Circuit of which Charles Town had been a part for over half a century, was divided. An old record reads: "Jefferson Circuit was divided in the Spring of 1873. Two appointments belonging to it - Smithfield and Kabletown, were attached to the Darkesville appointment and named Jefferson Circuit. Charles Town, White House and Wilt-shire's were put together and named Charles Town Station."

In 1893, a new church building was erected on the same lot but further East, giving right of way for the town to open the street and build an overhead bridge connecting Charles Town and Ranson. This building has had two additions to make room for the ever increasing Sunday School in the past decades, and in July, 1949, the new Sunday School building across the street from the church opened. The new Sunday School was formerly known as the Old Creamery building and was originally a one-story stone structure built in 1849 by Jefferson county to be used as a free school for "males" and was known as the "Old Stone School"

#### CATHOLIC PARISH FORMED AT HARPERS FERRY

The history of the Roman Catholic Church in Jefferson county dates back to 1792, when the Rev. John Dubois, who arrived in this country from France the previous year, was serving the church in Martinsburg. For two years his work led him frequently to Harpers Ferry. In 1797, the Rev. Demetrius Gallitzin, or "Prince Gallitzin", as he was in reality, was on a three-months' visit to Wizard's Clip (Middleway) Jefferson county. where he investigated and put his approval of authenticity on certain strange happening, that took place at the home of a family by the name of Livingstone. During his short stay in Virginia, Prince Gallitzin did missionary work and probably labored at Harpers Ferry.

About 1830, the Catholics of Harpers Ferry had grown numerous enough to be considered a parish, separate from Martinsburg, although a resident pastor had not yet been appointed. The Rev. John B. Gildea, pastor of the church at Martinsburg, was also serving the church at Harpers Ferry. The church at Harpers Ferry was dedicated on the first Sunday of May. 1833 by Archbishop Whitfield of Baltimore, and was named St. Peter's Catholic Church.



Situated on one of the high hills in Harpers Ferry, St. Peter's Church is on one of the most commanding sites imaginable. The land on which it was built was a gift from two brothers and a sister. James B. Wager, Gerard B. Wager and Sarah Ann Wager, who were great grand nephews and niece of Robert Harper.

During the War between the States the church was kept open by the rector, the Rev. Michael A Costello. He let it be known to the generals of the contending armies that he was a British subject and that his government would stand for no offense committed against him or the property which he had been commissioned to protect. Consequently, both officers of the Union and Confederate forces would dine with the rector of the parish, and worship in his church

In 1893, the old stone church became unsafe and was torn down and another church also of stone construction was built on the same site. St. James' Church in Charles Town and St. Agnes' Church in Shepherdstown are missions of St Peter's Church and were both built in 1889.

#### EPISCOPAL CHURCHES BUILT IN 'THE 1760's

From all available records i would seem that Episcopalians in Jefferson county first held public worship services in Old Christ Church at Bunker Hill which was built in 1740 in the neighboring county of Berkeley.

With the erection of St. George's Chapel, built presumably in 1769 members of the Episcopal Church in Jefferson county attended Divine worship in that historic structure, now in ruins and near "Harewood," the home of Samuel Washington on the Charles Town-Mid-

dieway, Road.

The Rev. Benjamin Allen arrived in Charles Town, (then ir Virginia) on foot from Alexandria the last day of December 1814 to take up his pastorate in St. Andrew's Parish which constituted churches both in Berkeley and Jefferson counties and a small part of Maryland. Under the Rev. Mr Allen's pastorate, the first church on the present site of Zion Episcopal Church (Charles Town) was built. While information concerning that edifice is meagre, it was in use in 1816, and perhaps was completed earlier.

Why the new church—Zion Church—was built, is not known, but the presumption is that the congregation of St. George's Chapel either outgrew that old building or else desired to move into town.

In 1846 Zion church building became too small for the growing

congregation and a new edifice was begun. In 1848 that church building burned to the ground, and the present church building was constructed and dedicated on December 6, 1851. All three churches were built on the same site and belief seems well grounded that the present church building is a replica of the one which burned in 1848.

rector of the parish in 1850, but went to Philadelphia in 1852. While on his farm outside that city. Dr. Tyng had the misfortune to get his dressing gown caught in machinery being operated by mule power and before assistance could be summoned, his right arm was so seriously mangled that he subsequently died as a result of the accident. On his death bed he begged his followers to "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus". His close friend, Dr. Duffield, an eminent Presbyterian minister, was so inspired and impressed by these last words, that he wrote the well known hymn of that name.

During the War between the States an order was issued by Major General T. W. Egan, in charge of Union troops in the Charles Town area at the time. supposedly for the protection of Zion Church during the hostilities interesting is the fact, however that the order was issued only several weeks before the surrender of General Lee and that prior to that ime Union soldiers quartered in Zion Church had desecrated it almost beyond recognition. All pews had been destroyed and the building generally damaged. On the walls of the Church of that day damaged. On the were placed the Ten Command-nents—a soldier took his sword and cut out the commandment Thou Shalt Not Steal". The original, hand penned order of General Engan demanding the protection of Zion Church, is now in the archives of the church.

Trinity Episcopal Church in Shepherdstown was established about the time of St. George's Chapel. Records fail to show the exact date of its organization, but a small stone building is supposed to have existed in 1769 when St. George's Chapel was built. In Shepherd's will probated in 1776, he requested that the lot on which the English (Episcopal) Church then stood, be reserved for the sole use of the church and free from ground rents.

# OLDEST CHURCH BUILDING 'N JEFFERSON COUNTY

Christ Evangelical and Reformed Church in Shepherdstown is one of the oldest in this entire West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland section.

In 1746 Michael Schlatter came from Holland and laid the groundwork for Christ Reformed Church in Shepherdstown. Having been commissioned by the Holland Coetus, Schlatter made three trips across the Potomac from Maryland in the interest of establishing a Reformed congregation in what was then the Valley of Virginia His first trip was in 1746, another was made the following year and a third in 1748, when the Reformer Church congregation organized Although historical data on the congregation does not give the exact day on which Schlatter made his first trip into Shepherdstown or where he held the meeting, it is thought he met with a small group of people in a private home somewhere.

All through the years that elapsed between the time that Schlatter made his trips and the date when the first church was built by the congregation in Shepherdstown in 1774, the church continued to serve the people who lived within its reach.

Services were held in homes of the members of the congregation before the first church was built and history reveals that the Rev Conrad Steiner of Frederickstown. Md., served the congregation at the Potomac six times in 1757. These meetings were held in a small schoolhouse near Antietam, Md., not far from Packhorse Ford and it is believed that the same group of people who attended these meetings with their families later formed the Shepherdstown Reformed congregation, and built the church.

In 1774 the demand for a suitable place of worship for the congregation had become so great that a church was built in that year on land given by Henry Kuckus, a member of the congregation. The first church was a log structure and was used not only by members of the Reformed faith but also of the Lutheran and Presbyterian denominations. The church continued to grow so rapidly that in 1782 the Reformed congregation organized and started its own denominational records.

Desiring to find a way to summon members of the congregation to worship services, members de-

cided that some church bells should be installed. Michael Zeasley volunteered to go to his home-

land of France and purchase them with silver buckles and other valuable articles contributed by members of the congregation. Consequently he purchased a complete peal of four bells which were reported to be the same ones that were sounded by Napoleon when his army conquered the world. Zeasley had these huge bells shipped to Baltimore and brought by ox team to Shepherdstown—or Mecklenburg as the town was called in those days.

The congregation was then faced with the problem of housing the large heavy bells, and so it was that in 1800 or thereabouts, a new church tower of native stone was completed and a special dedication was planned. The bells were christened with home made wine and hundreds of people came from great distances for the special occasion. Three of the bells were installed in the tower but the fourth found its way to the Elmwood Cemetery in Shepherdstown where it still hangs in the sexton's house

In 1839 the congregation outgrew the log church and it was decided to erect a new church building. The congregation did not wish to see the bells and tower go, however; so it was decided to build a new brick edifice on the north side of the tower. In 1881 the church was remodeled and much of the original building was replaced.



# LUTHERAN CHURCH STARTS IN SHEPHERDSTOWN

The history of the first Lutheran congregation in Jefferson county dates back to 1765 when nine Lutherans met together in Shepherdstown and formed the nucleus of a congregation. Although they had no minister, they met in a house for Divine worship and an elder read the sermon.

In 1766 they called a pastor, the Rev. Mr. Bauer, and some years later in 1795, the cornerstone for their house of worship was laid. This solemn occasion took place on the thirteenth Sunday after Trinity, on August 30. The church was built under the pastorate of the Rev. Johann David Young, who first ministered to the congregation in 1790.

As long as Pastor Young preached from the pulpit, the congregation was united, but after his death came discord and strife. It was a period of transition from the German to the English language. Living in an English speaking community, made it a necessity for the German speaking Lutheran congregation to adopt the English language if the church was to grow. Many clung to the language of their childhood; others became alienated and found other church homes. At last, under the pastorate of the Rev. C. P. Krauth, Sr., order and peace was brought out of discord.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, as the church in Shepherdstown was named, had its first connection with the Virginia Synod when the Synod of Maryland, and Virginia, was formed in 1820. In 1829 the parish united with other parishes in the Shenandoah Valley and Piedmont, Va., to form the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Virginia.

In 1856 St. James Lutheran Church in Uvilla was built, with the same pastor serving that congregation and St. Peter's church in Shepherdstown. In 1897 the present church building in Uvilla was constructed.

In 1906 the congregation of St. Peter's church erected a new edifice, built in Gothic style, of native blue limestone with trimmings of Indiana stone. The cornerstone was laid on November 10, 1906.

In May, 1939, the third Church in the Shepherdstown Lutheran Parish was organized in Charles Town, with twenty nine charter members. The planting of this new Church, St. Thomas', was under the leadership of the Shepherdstown pastor, Rev. John H. Fray, D.D., together with the support of the Board of American Mission of the United Lutheran Church in America. Services of worship were held in the stone chapel in Ranson through the courtesy of Zion Episcopal Church, who owned the building. Subsequently the chapel was leased and later purchased by Thomas' Lutheran congregation.

In the year 1940, St. Lutheran Church in Harper's Ferry was received into the Parish and made the fourth Church. This congregation had been in existence as early as 1828 and in 1849 was officially organized. The Church edi fice was erected in 1850, the lane having been given by the Federai government. It was scarcely a decade after the dedication of the new church when services were discontinued due to the War between the States, and the buildings were taken over by the United States Government to be used as a hospital. The marks can still be seen where the walls were shattered by a cannon ball fired from Maryland Heights. It was not until 1869 that services were held in the Church again. A season of growth and strength brought the congregation to be the strongest in the community, but was followed by a period of decline and the doors were closed until 1928, when the tireless efforts of a small number of faithful members made possible a renovation of the property and rededication in that year.

The four churches in the parish enjoyed a normal growth and many noteworthy accomplishments from 1940. In the year of 1950 a division of the Parish took form, and St. Thomas, Charles Town, St. John's, Harpers Ferry, and a third congregation, St. Paul's, Neersville, Va., became the Charles Town Lutheran Parish. St. Peter's Shepherdstown and St. James Uvilla, the Shepherdstown Parish.

Sheet music—the latest nursery song: "Two Little Brown Girls," companion to "Two Little Girls In Blue." At Charlie Brown's.

# Bishop Asbury The Methodist

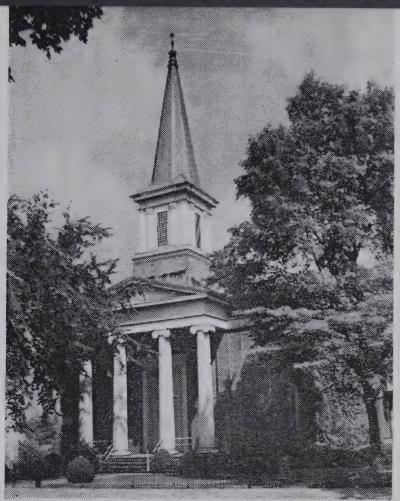
By E. E. MEREDITH

The Christian Education Bulletin for August, 1951, published by the Methodist church at Buckhannon, has an article concerning Bishop Francis Asbury, who is credited with being "the real founder of Methodism" and with having made 30 preaching tours through what is now West Virginia.

Bishop Asbury is credited with having preached at Martinsburg in 1781, South Branch 1782, Shepherdstown 1783, Morgantown 1785, Coxe's Fort in Brooke county 1785, Old Sweet Springs, Clover Lick in Pocahontas county at "Father Haymond's" near Fairmont, "Martha's Chapel" near Morgantown in 1788, Mill Point in Pocahontas county, at Col. Ben Wilson's four miles from Beverly and at Squire Van Meter's in Hardy county in 1790, in Preston county in 1792, at Charles Town and Harper's Ferry in 1795, at John Beck's near West Liberty and at John Sparh's at Short Creek in 1803 and at the court house at Wheeling in 1808. At Wheeling he lodged with Col. Ebenezer Zane. The article was written by Rev. J. A. Earl.

Methodism in the Greenbrier Valley dates from 1784, when a Methodist Society was organized at what was then called "The Sinks of Greenbrier." This location is near Keenan, Monroe county. Old Rehoboth Church, near Union, county seat of Monroe county, is the oldest Methodist Church west of the Alleghany Mountains, established June 1786, and the original edifice, built of logs, is still standing. The logs were "scutched" (or roughly hewn) and the cracks were chinked or daubed. Bishop Francis Asbury dedicated the church. Worshippers carried their guns to meeting, to be prepared in case of attack by Indians.





CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH building (above) one hundred years old in 1951. The third building for Presbyterians, a beautiful structure on Washington street, passed its first century mark with a four-day weekend celebration. The corner stone was opened Thursday night, July 12, 1951. Current documents were added to those deposited in 1851, and the cornerstone was resealed with fitting ceremony.



Eik Branch Presbyterian Church, located near Duffields, was first mentioned as a separate church from the Presbyterian Church in Shepherdstown, in the records of the Donegal Presbytery, on April 11, 1769. It was ministered to by supply

pastors, serving at irregular intervals.

Feeling the need for a regular pastor, Elk Branch congregation asked for one in April, 1776. Following authorization by Donegal Presbytery, three commissioners, John White, John Wright and James AcAllister, extended a call to John Mc-Knight who was promised a salary of 132 pounds. With seven ministers and four ruling elders officiating, he was ordained on December 3, 1776, as the first regular preacher of Elk Branch. In spite of the fact that he served his congregation for six years and was popular with his parishioners, he was not always paid his salary promptly. This was especially true in the time of the Revolution when money was worthless. Consequently he left in 1782, to accept a call from Marsh Creek. Gettysburg, Pa., and from that date until 1792, the congregation divided. One part joined the church under the Rev. Moses Hoge at Shepherdstown and the other united with the old Bullskin congregation in organizing a new church at Charles Town. In 1833, however, the Elk Branch church was reorganized.





CHRIST EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH at Shepherdstown dates back to 1748, when a congregation was formed in the town—then known as Mecklenburg. In 1774 the congregation built a log church, which was shared by the Lutherans and Presbyterians. Soon members of the Reformed Church felt the need to summon worshipers to services, and Michael Zeasley volunteered to return to his homeland—France—and there purchased with silver buckles and trinkets donated by the congregation a complete peal of four bells. About 1800 a new church tower was constructed to carry the bells, and today the bells Zeasley brought from France call parishioners to the freedom of religion in Old Shepherdstown.

FOR FINE ENTERTAINMENT

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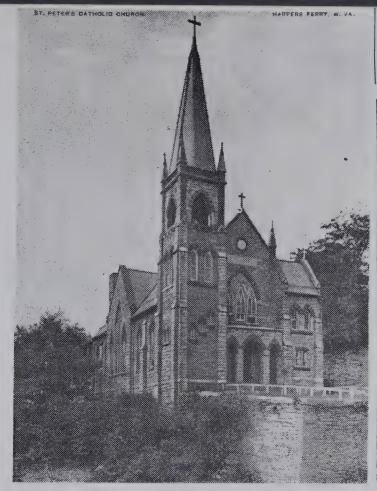
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SAINT PETERS' CATHOLIC CHURCH at Harpers Ferry, high on a prominence of this historic town, dates to 1792 when a congregation was formed. The first church was dedicated in May of 1833, and was completely rebuilt in 1896. ..The Rev. Father DuBois of France came to Martinsburg (then and now Berkeley county) in 1792 and for two years served the mission at Harpers Ferry; in 1830 Harpers Ferry became a parish of the Catholic Church.



Recently completed Miller-built home in Leetown, Jefferson County.

# W. HARLEY MILLER

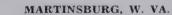
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# The Beginning

## By COL. ROBERT LEE BATES

(The introduction of the earliest explorer, trapper or adventurer into the section of West Virginia now embracing Jefferson county, comes from the carefully prepared historical notes of a native of Middleway (once Smithfield). Col. R. L. Bates has distinguished himself as historian, author and is a member of the faculty of Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va., occupying the chair of Philosophy. Readers will find other stories in this Sesqui-Centennial Edition, commemorating 150 years since the founding of Jefferson county, contributed by Colonel Bates, all of which is as yet unpublished.)

Near the beginning of the 17th the Potomac and effected explorations from the north. In some instances, tales of adventure inthe far off land of America. faulty economic system, political unrest and an excess of population impelled people to leave their native land. A possibility of acquiring greater wealth, the prospect of enlarging domains, and competition with other nations induced kings and princes to aid and abet their subjects in leaving for the new world. Jamestown, Va., was settled in 1607. At first there was an intermittent stream of migrants flowing only as new colonists were decided upon; and decades elapsed between the planting of colonies.

William Penn was one of the most popular of colonizers. His acceptance of the Quaker faith was one of the dramatic events of history, and his leaving for America was a signal for the departure of twenty-three vessels bound for Pennsylvania. Many more vessels were to follow him in the years immediately succeeding 1682, the date of his landing. Each vessel was heavily loaded with its human cargo of adventurers and settlers. It is not to be supposed that Pennsylvania was the sole objective of Penn's colonists. The east side of the Delaware River was equally as inviting as the west side and, bethe Colony of New Jersey had already been established and organized politically. Some of Penn's colonists disembarked at Burlington a short distance above Philadelphia and from that point diffused themselves over the Colony of New Jersey.

When the 18th Century opened the stream of settlers coming to America had become a torrent. From New England to Georgia towns were being founded in the

region of the tidewater. Plantations were being claimed and surveyed farther and farther inland. Indians were ceasing to be a menace to the safety of newcomers as they slowly yielded to the white man's force of arms, and moved westward.

Adventurers who had been busy exploring valleys to the sources of their respective streams returned in time to make reports. Explorers like John Lederer had crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains from the south. Others following Indian trails to Packhorse Ford, crossed stances tales of adventure rivaled Marco Polo's description of Cathay. Lederer, according to his notes, stood on the top of a mountain, supposedly near Harpers Ferry, and beheld the Great Lakes in the distances.

In 1716, Alexander Spotswood, then governor of Virginia, conducted an expedition over these mountains into the Shenandoah Valley, and returned to Williamsburg to report a vast expanse of land far beyond the region of the tidewater. Truth vied with fiction to excite the imagination of pioneers and adventurous settlers.

Old records disclose that human migrations were as frequent, and almost as wide, in the early days of the nation as at the present time. A new and unexplored world supplied an all but perfect escape from conditions brought about by the social and political unrest of the period. To acquire land became a craze, and the coveted soil could be had for the asking. Even when the land hunger was satisfied the

habit of acquiring still more land endured

When it became known that fertile fields lay beyond the Potomac River settlers began moving into the Valley from the north and the migration reached the proportion of a flood tide about the middle of the 18th Century as the records of Lord Fairfax disclose. The early settlers encountered few obstacles to acquiring land. The Virginia authorities, by this time, had become fearful of an Indian invasion from the west, and efforts were made to fill the unknown region beyond the mountains with settlers. In European politics buffer states were often created to serve as barriers against bad neighbors. In event of war such states would be the first to receive the full impact of arms. A buffer state would soften, if not prevent, the enemy's final blow. To protect the thriving tidewater settlements, Williamsburg decreed just such a province and settlers were encouraged to move to the lands on the other side of the Blue Ridge. But the easy approach to the Valley was from the north. The only real barrier, here, was the Potomac River, but this could be forded when the stream was low. The place of crossing was "old Packhorse Ford"

which was a wide shallow part of the river below the present town of Shepherdstown. A great num-

of Shepherdstown. A great number of Valley settlers came from the north and particularly from the lands of William Penn.

Virgil A. Lewis asserts in his book, History and Government of West Virginia (1904), that one Morgan Morgan was the first settler in the State of West Virginia.

Morgan erected his cabin pear Morgan erected his cabin near what is now the town of Bunker Hill in Berkeley county, in 1727. A few years later a number of German immigrants crossed the Potomac and settled the town of Mecklenburg—subsequently Shepherdstown. Even prior to Morgan's arrival there were, no doubt, many settlers in the Valley but as they had not taken the precaution to obtain grants of land, or establish their presence, their names do not appear in the records.

#### THE EARLY SETTLERS

Mr. John Henry Smith who died in 1892, at the advanced age of seventy-five, was a careful diarist and annalist. He once served as deputy clerk of the Jefferson County court and was for many years the village postmaster. He was a man of strong family interests and his memory extended to the time when tradition and fact would hardly be confused. Mr. Smith maintained that the progenitor of his family was one William Smith who accompanied William Penn to his Colony in America. Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia, a book that was published shortly after the Civil War, confirms the state-ments of Mr. John H. Smith and both fix the date of the Smith's arrival in the Valley at 1729.

William Smith settled in the vicinity of Philadelphia, presumably, at Chester. Later, with his family, he re-migrated to Walpack in the County of Hunterdon (now Sussex Co.), New Jersey. His sons, John and Rees, who were millwrights, resolved to move to the Valley where they arrived at about the time the VanMeter brothers, John and Isaac, were securing for themselves grants of land in the Colony of Virginia. At a "Council held at the Capitol on the 16th day of June, 1730" it was resolved that John and Isaac VanMeter, of the Province of West Jersey, should receive a large tract of land, much of it lying on the "River Opequon," on condition that they bring with them some thirty families to settle the region.

There had been Indian troubles in some of Penn's more distant lands. As reported in the Penn-sylvania archives, "May 10, 1728, inhabitants of Colebrook Dale petitioned Governor Gordon, praying for relief against what they suffered, and were likely to suffer, from the Indians, who had fallen upon the back inhabitants about Falkner's Schwamm and Gobhen-hoppen." Among the petitioners were Yost Heid (Joist Hite), Benjamin Frey and William Smith, names that repeatedly occur in the annals of Frederick County.



Joist Hite and Benjamin Borden had resolved to avail themselves of land-grant privileges as were then extended by the Colony of Virginia. In 1732, Hite, accompanied by fifteen families, hewed his way from York, Pa., and settled near Winchester on some 40,000 acres of land. The tract embraced the Opequon Creek valley. The conditions of his grant are indicated in the proceedings of the Council of the Colony under the date of June 12, 1734.

Joost Hite having made proof of the Seating the Ldns convey'd to

him by John & Isaac Vanmader on the western Side Sherrando River by bringing there on to Dwell one Family for each 1000 acres and also part of the Land granted him & Robert Mackay and others thereunto adjoining. It is ordered that Patents be granted to the Several Masters of Familys residing there for the Quantity of Land surveyed for them respectively pursuant to the condition on which the sd Land was First taken up and the Surveys now returned into the office.

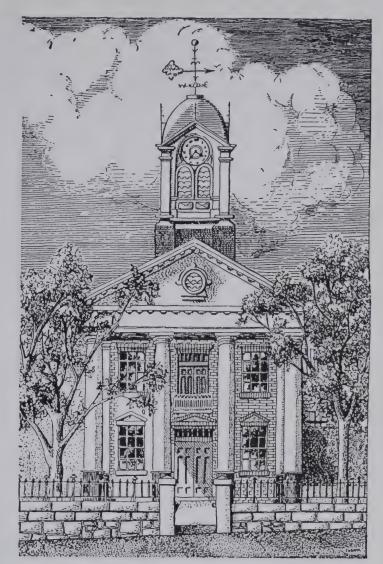
Borden had secured a large grant of land farther to the south. William Russell was one of the prominent surveyors of the period.

It is not disclosed just when or where William Smith, the emigrant, died. Upon moving to the Valley, his sons, John and Rees, soon discovered that they were on land that had, under the date of June 17, 1730, been granted to the Van Meter brothers and later purchased by Joist Hite. How amicable was the settlement of such land troubles is not shown in the record. However, the matter was resolved in favor of John and Rees Smith for, under the date of August 20, 1734, this notation is to be found

in a grant of land made by Governor Gooch of Virginia to John Smith and similarly for his brother Rees:

We have given--unto John Smith one certain tract or parcel of land containing four hundred and twenty acres lying and being on the western side of Sherrando River and on both sides of a branch of Opeckon called Turkey Spring designed to be included in a County called Orange (being part of forty thousand acres purchased by Jost Hite from Isaac and John Van Meter who had obtained Orders of our Lieut. Govr. in Council to take up the same upon certain conditions therein expressed which Orders were made the seventeenth day of June One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty).

This document refers to John Smith's grist and hemp mill which he, by this time (1734), had built on Turkey Run. In the early days of Valley settlement the raising of hemp was deemed a good business for pioneer landowners. A bounty is said to have been offered by the authorities to promote its production. Smith's mill was one of the first attempts at the establishment of industry beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains or across the Potomac River.



Historic Jefferson County Court House

On January 21, 1734, prior to securing his grant of land, John Smith, Morgan Morgan, Benjamin Borden and a number of George II's Virginia subjects, were commissioned justices. They were to represent the region beyond the Shenandoah River. Oaths were administered by John Finlason and Samuel Ball. On April 13, of the same year, the Governor of Virginia, and his Council, gave due recognition to a petition coming from beyond the Blue Ridge.

On reading a Petition from the Inhabitants of the North West side of the Blew Ridge of Mountains praying that some persons may be appointed as Magistrates to determine Differences and punish Offenders in regard the Petitioners live far remote from any of the established Counties within the Colony. It is the opinion of the Council that Joose Hyte, Morgan Morgan, John Smith, Benjamin Borden and George Hobson be appointed Justices within limits aforesaid, and that they be added to the Com" of the Peace for the County of Spotsylvania until there be a sufficient Number of Inhabi-tants on the North West side of said Mountains to make a County of itself. But that the persons above named be not Obliged to give their Attendance as Justices of the Court of the County of Spotsylvania.

The inhabitants of the Shenandoah Valley were eager to have their region quickly settled. They formulated a plan which they thought would expedite the coming of settlers and which, at the same time, would redound to their own advantage. A continuation of the petition:

A petition of the Inhabitants of Sherrando River in behalf of themselves and others intending to settle there praying that an Address may be made to his Majesty to remit to the sd Inhabitants the Quit Rents of their Lands for a Term not exceeding Twelve Years as an Encouragement for the more speedy peopling that remote place of this Dominion.

How long John Smith served in the capacity of a pioneer justice is not disclosed. Some old papers, such as would pass through a justice's hands, have survived time. These papers include attachments, summonses, accounts and evidences of debt collection. One document had to do with an imprisonment for debt. Smithfield, at this time, was a straggling pioneer community which, as early as 1734 could boast of a mill and a hemp industry.



The health of Jane, John Smith's wife, began to fail and she returned to Chester, Pa., presumably her earlier home. This was in 1736. John Smith remained in the Valley. The records of Orange County, which was cut off from Spotsylvania January 1, 1735, are replete with references to Smith's trading and trafficing in land. Certain tracts in the vicinity of the present village of Middleway, were sold, in 1738, to William Hiett, David Lewis and others; it being alleged at the time of the conveyance that Jane Smith was too ill to make the journey to the county seat of Orange county to relinguish her dower right. It was at that time a legal formality for all parties to appear in court and

make oath to a signature in the presence of witnesses. The court appointed a commission consisting of Benjamin Borden, Morgan Morgan and William Russell to go ther home and ascertain her pleasure in the matter. For the court reasoned:

Jane Smith is so sickly that she cannot travel to the court of the County of Orange to relinguish her dower in and to the said lands conveyed by her husband by the aforesaid deeds, therefore, we having compassion of the state of said Jane for this behalf, do give unto you power to receive the acknowledgement of her right of dower aforesaid to the same mentioned in the aforesaid deeds.

A note of pioneer pathos appears in the record of the same year:

We, Benjamin Borden, Morgan Morgan and William Russell, do hereby certify his Majesty's court of Orange that the within named Jane Smith is dead for which reason we could not take any further examination as we are commanded.

Certified under our hands, January 15, 1738.

Benjamin Borden Morgan Morgan William Russell

The records indicate that John Smith died in 1747. The deeds to land subsequently made by his son John, whom we shall call John Smith, Jr., allege that the grantor had come into possession of his inheritance at this time.

#### SOCIAL HISTORY REFLECTED

In 1728, Fredericktown, now Winchester, consisted of two cabins. In twenty-four years (1752) it was to be incorporated by law into a backwoods municipality. Settlers were arriving and establishing the town of Mecklenburg, now Shepherdstown, on the Potomac. Lord Fairfax had arrived in what is now Clarke Co., Va., 1747, to take possession of a vast tract known as the Northern land Neck which embraced the territory lying between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers. A distribution of lands among settlers had begun. Rober Carter was Fairfax chief conveyancer. The land office had begun a flourishing business. Plantations were sold subject to a yearly rental of two shillings per hundred acres. But this provision in the deeds merely served to complicate titles at a later date. Fairlax had received these lands as an inheritance, and upon his arrival he discovered that the pioneering folk already present possessed what purported to be good titles to their lands. The conflicting grants further tended to becloud such titles and the feeling of insecurity that followed caused many settlers to move elsewhere. There is no evidence that John Smith had any trouble whatsoever with the proprietor of the Northern Neck, although Fairfax and Joist Hite were engaged in litigation which was not settled until all parties to the suit were in their graves.

At the October meeting of the General Assembly, in 1748, special provisions were enacted for the dwellers of the region beyond the Blue Ridge. Ferries and public expresses were provided for and the amount to be paid for the transportation of sheep, hogs, and live stock was fixed by law. Highways must be thirty feet wide, well cleared and grubbed. A penalty was imposed upon all tithable persons who refused to assist in roadmaking when assistance was demanded by the surveyor. Mill dams must be twelve feet wide at the top. At every cross road a stone must be set to show the direction.

The loser of forty shillings in a game of chance might recover his lost money. If the loser did not sue in three months from the date of the loss any other person might sue and recover three times the amount lost. If a person cheated and won, the person losing might recover five times his loss. Pioneering folk were addicted to gambling. Washington himself complained that soldiers stationed at inland forts squandered their time and wasted powder in target practice.

At this session of the Assembly informal marriages were outlawed. No person could henceforth be married without a license or the publication of the banns; and the banns were to be published according to the rubric in the book of common prayer. If persons resided in several parishes the banns would be published three times in each parish.

To engage in the fur trade a license for so doing would henceforth be required. The penalty of death would be inflicted for the third offense of hogstealing, and this without benefit of clergy. A bounty was offered for the de-

struction of wolves. Owing to Indian depredations in "the upper part of the Colony" a law was enacted in 1755 offering a reward of £10 for the scalp of every male Indian above twelve years of age, however, it was deemed a felony to kill an Indian friendly to his Majesty. Friendly Indians were eligible for the reward.

On account of the prolonged drought of this year, and the possibility of an insufficiency of corn, the price, in order to prevent extortion, was fixed at a sum not greater than 12s 6d a barrel.

There was now (1755) imminent | danger of invasion from the west by French and Indians. War clouds cast their shadows upon this region. Measures were taken for recruiting a soldiery. Every soldier summoned must appear with his arms and accoutrement. He must possess at the time of muster one bound of powder, four pounds of balls and he must supply his own horse and arms. Heavy penalties were imposed for failure to comply with the regulations as laid down.

Militiamen were to be paid at public expense. Six thousand pounds had to be raised at once to meet the expense of protecting his Majesty's subjects against hostile incursions of the French and Indians. A lottery was decided upon. it being "the most easy and effectual method" of raising money. Tickets were ordered to be sold for £1 1s 6d each, the number of tickets to be sold being left to the discretion of the managers of the lottery. Duplicate tickets were to be kept in a box. On December 11, 1755, the lucky numbers were to be drawn. The winners' names were to be published in the Virginia Gazette. To augment returns from the lottery it was decreed that a tax should be placed on tobacco. Three companies of militiamen were to be raised in Frederick County for immediate service against the French and Indians.

In 1758, provision was made by law for semi-annual fairs to be held in Winchester, some fifteen miles from Smith's home. The appointed dates were the third Wednesday in June and the third Wednesday in October. These fairs were to continue for two days Their purpose was "for vending all manner of cattle, victuals, provisions, goods, wares and merchandizes whatsoever." All persons attending were to be exempt from arrest, attachment and executions except those who were guilty of breaking the peace or who stood accused of capital offenses. Money was scarce. Tobacco had taken the place of coin. Business was gen-

erally conducted on the primitive basis of barter and trade. The first fairs were not successful as they coincided with the growing menace of an Indian invasion. The massacre at Fort Seybert, across the Alleghanies, took place in May, 1758. Rutherford's Rangers were ready to take the field. A command of 1,600 Virginians were marching against Fort Duquesne. A brief memorandum recovered from John Smith, Jr.'s papers is reminiscent of the period.

This is to certify that John Caton of Frederick County in Virginia without Bay horse Brandd RC, one sorel horse shot By the endens Brandd 82 and one gray mere Brandd RC tuck away By the endens and his wagon left 8 miles from Pissurg the 25 of August 1759 and one Bay mere stole 2 of September by the solders his gears left at Ligoner Receved in part pay 10s 3d given under my hand this 8 of September 1758.

Vab Crawford Waggon master

Crawford discharged



## Discontent In Civil War

By E. E. MEREDITH

The fact that the formation of West Virginia was the only change made in the map of the United States as a result of the Civil War has led people of this state to think that this was the only break from the Southern Confederacy. This being the case it is difficult to accept statements in "Statesman of the Lost Cause" by Burton J. Hendrick that Union sentiment prevailed in a "huge peninsula" from the Pennsylvania boundary as far as Northern Georgia and Alabama and that at one time during the war it looked like Georgia might tear itself away from the Confederacy and return to the Union. This discontent in the heart of the Confederacy has been emphasized in many historical volumes but Hendrick sums it up:

There were oasis of Confederate adherence loyal to the Union. So intensely raged the hostility of the western part of Virginia to the Confederacy that it seceded from the Old Dominion, set up the state of West Virginia, and attached itself to the Federal Union. Only by the barest chance is there today not similarly a state of East Tennessee, for a strong movement started in the early days of the Civil War, to form such a commonwealth.

The regions remaining loyal to the Union had voted against secession when that issue was tested at the ballot box and this feeling remained a powerful influence during four years of war. This author says:

These "up country" people disliked their contemporaries of the Piedmont and coastal plains on both political and personal grounds. Constant efforts had been under way for a century to restrict their political power. Ridiculed as "hillbillies", "crackers" and "poor whites" or other opprobious names they maintained an independent sturdy life far removed from eastern sections.

This book calls the conflict the Civil War but has a frontispiece in which it refers to the "great war between the States" and the title includes "The Lost Cause." A Civil War is contending factions in the same country and the Southern sympathizers to this day think of the North and South as two different countries. President Jefferson Davis, of the Confederacy named a commission to treat with President Abraham Lincoln and Secretary William H. Seward "for the purpose of securing peace to the two countries." The North had waged four years of war under the contention that it was a rebellion and Lincoln told them that there was one way to have peace and that was that those resisting the laws of the Union must "cease that resistance."

The bibliography of this work includes "Recollections of War and Peace" by Mrs. Anna Pierpont Siviter, daughter of Governor Francis H. Pierpont, "the Father of West Virginia" but credits it to Mrs. Roger A. Pryor by error, and "Diplomatic Relations of the Confeedrate States with England" by Dr. James Morton Callahan, of Morgantown.

## News From Old Papers

Virginia Monitor, Shepherdstown, Va. May 28, 1823, N. Mitchel, Ed.

The stockholders in the Shepherdstown and Winchester turnpike company are notified that an election will be held at Tho's Crown's tavern, in Shepherdstown

ELECTION.

on Saturday, the 7th. June next, from 11 o'clock in the morning until 3 o'clock in the afternoon for a President and five Directors, to conduct the affairs of the Company the ensuing year.

A. Humrickhouse, Sec't'ry.

Very late from Europe. May 19, 1823—2 o'clock.

The elegant new packet ship Leeds, Captain Stoddard (of the fourth or Exchange Line) has just arrived in the remarkably quick passage of 23 days from Liverpool.

The Constitutionalist. Oct. 23, 1839. James R. Hayman, Ed.

NOTICE

A locomotive and train of passenger cars will leave the Harpers

Ferry Depot for Winchester, the third Saturday in every month—leaving Harpers Ferry at 6½ A.M., returning, leave Winchester at 4¼ P.M. Fare for the trip \$1

Henry Brown, Agt. W. & P.R.R. Co.

Spirit of Jefferson. Sept. 27, 1844.

Shoes—Ladies who are in search of most elegant Kid Slippers and Walking Shoes will find them at Miller & Tate's.

Nov. 1, 1844.

Lard Lamps—Just received another supply of those handsome Marble Base Lard Lamps, which will be sold low by

Chas. G. Stewart.

Jan. 23, 1846.

Charlestown Refactory — We commend to all lovers of fine Oysters, and good living in general, the genteel Refactory Establishment of George B. Monroe in Charlestown. His good Lady is an adept in the culinary art, and her style of dressing Oysters is the subject of general praise.

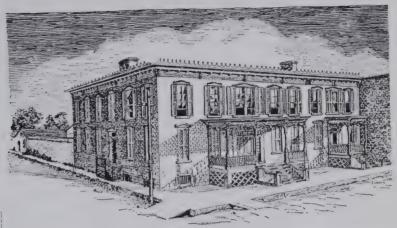
June 7, 1866.

Hoop skirts—the great invention of the age, the spiral or one Spring Skirt. For sale by

J. L. Hooff,

34





JEFFERSON COUNTY'S SECOND JAIL—Is famous because it housed John Brown during his trial and until his execution. John Avis was the jai'er and James Campbell was sheriff in the hectic days of Oct. 17, 1859 and Dec. 2, 1859. The site of the county's second jail is now the U. S. Postoffice at the southwest corner of Washington and George streets, Charles Town.

## Jefferson County

Jefferson county was once a segment of a vast territory which spread north and west from the Williamsburg seat of government in Virginia, and as the area was broken down, the political subdivisions were in the following order:

1648-1652 Northumberland County

1652-1656 Lancaster County 1656-1691 Old Rappahannock County

1691-1720 Essex County

1720-1734 Spottsylvania County

1734-1738 Orange County 1738-1772 Frederick County

1772-1801 Berkeley County

1801- Jefferson County.

Jefferson county was created from Berkeley county by an act of the General Assembly of Virginia passed on January 8, 1801, which provided that on and after October 26, 1801, all territory bounded and described in the act should be a separate county known as Jefferson. The new county was named in honor of Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States. Jefferson county became a part of West Virginia on June 20, 1863, when the separation from Virginia was approved by Congressional resolution.



# Smiths Of Smithfield And Others...Now Middleway

#### By COL. R. L. BATES

Smithfield (now Middleway), one of the old settlements of the Great Valley, is in Jefferson County of the State of West Virginia. The village, today, has about 100 inhabitants. Its location in pioneer days was determined by the intersection of Indian trails, one of which led southward from Packhorse Ford on the Potomac River and the other traversed the Valley, east and west, from the gaps of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the low points of the Alleghanies. A small stream named Turkey Run, called Turkey Spring Branch in early records, also played a part in determining the location of the village. It supplied a never failing source of pure water and afforded ample power for turning a mill wheel. An old mill stands within the confines of the town but the original mill, built prior to 1734 by one John Smith, is now not even a disheveled heap of stones. observation is necessary to discern a trace of the ancient mill race. The ruin is on Turkey Run about half way between the present village and the Opequon Creek into which the stream flows.

A visitor from Canada remarked some years ago that "Smithfield," in his opinion, "was the only place in the United States that closely resembled Quebec." Time has changed the village but little. Log houses that date back to the 18th Century are still standing and still occupied. The tourist, by a short detour from the main highways, can see a relic of the past. Log. brick and stone buildings abut the streets. An anciert tavern stands as it did in the days of Washington. There are cemeteries where tombs are marked with unpolished stones or depressions in the sod, and there are marble slabs on which are inscriptions that have been made indecipherable by time.

#### THE FOUNDERS OF SMITHFIELD

John Smith, Jr., was born in 1710. It was he who inherited the Smithfield properties. Like his father, his chief interest was in land His estate was augmented by an additional grant of land from Lord Fairfax in 1758. He resided in the yillage to which his name was given, and there performed the

functions of a pioneer banker when banks in this region were unknown. He advanced money to those who were unable to pay their taxes; he became a guarantor for those who were unable, at the time, to pay their debts; and he bonded those who were in trouble and needed some sort of surety. It was said that when Norborne Parish Church was built in the latter half of the 18th Century, John Smith, Jr., placed wagons and teams of horses at the disposal of the Vestry and for this service he acquired an acre of land for each load of stone hauled.

Mills have played an important rart in the lives of the Valley settlers. The earliest laws, as we have observed, were enacted for their construction and operation. John Smith, Jr., continued to develop this business which his father had started prior to 1734. Planters from the country round brought in their grain. A sawmill was, at length, put in operation in conjunction with the grist mill, and later a lime kiln was added to his business interests. Sawmills of the period bear little resemblance to the mills of today. In the early days logs were placed upon a platform and relays of men, two at a time, sawed the beams and plank by hand. The adz was an important implement for smoothing the heavier and rougher lumber.

Old account books indicate that John Smith, Jr., was also engaged in merchandizing. His wagons hauled goods beyond the mountains to points as distant as Frederick, Md., and Alexandria, Va. All the while he continued to acquire land. At the time of his death (1798) his holdings were nearly 2,000 acres.

Smith's contemporaries, who lived in or near his town between the years of 1786 and 1790, were:

Thomas Rankin, John Daniel, James Wallis, Edward Wells, Dr. John Lee, Jacob Lindsey, John Steel, Thomas Hiett, Jonathan Mercer, Charles Sanderson, William Luke, George Peterson, Patrick Gorman, George Smith, William Riley, Charles King, John Miller, Rudolph Black, William 'an Horn.

The foregoing, however, do not represent a complete list.

#### SMITHFIELD'S PROMOTION AND BIG LOT SALE

John Smith, Jr.'s account books, though kept with great care, at times closely resembles diaries. One item is presented as it shows how a young man of the period spent his time. Smith had this fellow in his employ. The youth was not living up to his contract with his employer, in consequence, was making deductions from his pay.

1786-A memorandum of Peterson's lost time. October 2 days at Bakers and work at Bill's aplowing. Half a day at McDaniels shooting mark. Half a ditto at Hening's husking. One day sick. One day agoing to the tailors and Simeon Hiett's husking, and and Simeon Hiett's husking, and the next day after the husking sick. One day at William Granthams husking. One day agoing with his sister Mary the 1st of December. January 12th — five days at Daniels and drinking, helping William Grantham chop hogs, and half a day helping Widow Gilbert chop wood. Half a day at Joseph Granthams a day at Joseph Granthams husking, January '87. February, to one day lost at Henings frolic. One day at another frolic, March 8th. To day and half when he took rum and got drunk. One day swingling flax for William Grantham; ran away the 24th of April '87, and came back about the 26th of April, '87, and lost one day helping Bill Grantham nusk, and one day along with his brother John and one day to help Bill Grantham kill a beer. Rest of day drinking grog. and went away the 1sth of September and came back about a week later.

The account discloses that Peterson, at length, stopped workand another man was secured in his place. But his account continued: "Silk handkerchief and a pair of gloves for Peterson and his girl." "A deer skin for Peterson." A velvet jacket" and "a pair of preeches" appeared on the tailor's record.



Kercheval, in his History of the Valley of Virginia, has remarked that the monotony of provincial life afflicted men, and particularly young men, with an insufferable poregom; that it was not unusual for the pioneer head of family suddenly to disappear into the woods. In the space of a week or two he would reappear, only to disappear again. This, no doubt, accounts for one transiency of a large segment of the early population. Daughters would marry and they and their nusbands would disappear into the West. Sons would leave home, sometimes in a great huff, and it they were ever heard of again, they would report their where-abouts as "in Carolina," "in Kentucky," or other distant place. Parents would speak of their children as 'somewhere out West.'

Hopes of discovering "royal mines" or valuable minerals in this region had never been realized. Wealth lay in land. One of the early discoveries made beyond the Blue Ridge was a large spring of pure, and allegedly healing, water in what is now Morgan county, W Va. Indians are said to have laid down their bows and tomahawks when they came to the spring and to have ceased their warfare as the strong reinvigorated themselves and the weak recovered their health. The place had been internationalized by hostile tribes be-fore the coming of the white man. The white man, upon learning of the health giving power of the water from the Indians, presumed to drink of this water and to bathe in it. A syndicate was at length formed to develop Bath, now Berkeley Springs, W. Va. Brian Fairfax, Warner Washington, Charles Thurston, Robert Rutherford, Samuel Washington and William Ellian Warner named as trustees. liam Ellzey were named as trustees. Their duties were to lay off lots and to sell them to the public. John Smith, Jr., Francis Willis, Jr., and to sell them to the Robert Throckmorton and William Drew formed a company to buy such lots. The early inhabitants of the region had become adept in all matters pertaining to the conveyancing of land. On August 25. 1777, title was transferred to the grantees and the lots taken over. In so far as John Smith, Jr. was concerned this was just another venture in acquiring and selling land. It seems that, at this time, no profit or pecuniary advantage was derived by the purchasers. However, Smith obtained a know-ledge of pioneer developing and this knowledge, at a later date, was used to good advantage in promoting his own town of Smith-

John Smith, Jr., and his wife, Elizabeth, reared a family consisting of sons, John, William, Rees and Moses; and daughters, Phebe and Sarah. His sons became the business men of the community. In 1788, he was aging and decided to make a deed of gift to the members of his family. Having provided for his wife, John Smith, III, was given the property on which his father dwelt and the milling business. Farms were conveyed to William, Rees and Moses. To Phebe, who married John Fry, he gave a plantation contiguous to the estate of John Fry's father, Lodowick Fry. Dodowick Fry had come into

the Valley with his wife, Catherine and a large family, he having received a grant of land from Lord Fairfax on March 12, 1763. To Sarah Smith, then unmarried, was given a tract of land adjoining that of her sister's. These proper-ties were so widely scattered in and around Smithfield that most of the present land titles in this part of Jefferson County are traceable to the former possession of John Smith, Jr. He and his son, John Smith, III, conceived the idea of a promotion project; the town was systematically laid out; lots were staked off and the town would be incorporated under an enactment of the virginia Assemuly.

John Smith, III, who was born about 1755, inherised not only a prosperous business but also his lather's business acumen. He proceeded to enlarge upon his father's activities, other than rarming; and especial opportunities now presented themselves. Wayfarers and transient settlers were, at this time, pouring through the hamle. from the north and from the east. The Revolutionary War had been over some ten years and populations, in quest of land and opportunity, were again becoming restless. The village seemed to be strategically located for a promotion project and under his direction, as will appear later, a development got under way that would do credit to a modern high-powered real estate operator.

The pioneering folk who had, by this time, become fixed to the land, began to improve their properties; to build houses in replacement of the ruder cabins and to improve and extend their highways. Forests still encumbered the land. The best way to utilize a waste product fixe timber was to convert it into log houses. Practically all of the landed gentry were bringing their logs to the mill to convert them into beams, lath and paling.

Old ledgers and account books disclose the names of the citizens who resided in the locality during the last half decade of the 18th Century. These names are given as, with the lapse of time, many kinship connections were formed from them; and genealogists should have little difficulty as the records in the Land Office in Richmond are complete as are the records of the Counties of Orange, Frederick, Berkeley and Jefferson. Among the early citizens were:

Adam Weaver, James Shirley, William Eddenborough, David Smedley, Nathaniel Graggwell (Craighill), George Wilson, Martin Houseman, Capt. William Kenney, Simeon Hiett, Jacob Houser, Jacob Weaver, George Briscoe, Adam Livingston, Frederick Roseberry, Joseph Lippy, Joseph Edwards, Peter Pultz (Boltz), John Hiett, Martin Howard, David Fry, Thomas Throckmorton, John Haines, Elisha Hobos, John Gratham, Sr., Joseph Bell, Charles Fouck, Lewis Smith, William Tapscott, John Packett, William Grantham, Thomas Campbell, John Lindsey, Lodowick Fry, Michael Schal (Shaull), Richard Hardes-

ty, John Irwin, John Fry, Nicholas Schal, William McDaniel, Thomas Luke, Robert Vance, John Grantham, Jr., John Criswell, Hugh Creighton, Harmon McKnight, Peter Zombro (zum Brot), John Ednsley, Nathaniel Willett, Isaac Williams, Thomas Hammond, Seth Smith, Henry Gilbert, James Tully, John Miller, Christian Bloom, William Davis, Alexander Frier, Henry Smith, George Peterson.



velopment begun in 1795 lasted through 1797, and ended just prior to the deaths of its founders, John Smith, Jr., and John Smith, III. Among the original purchasers of the Smithfield lots were:

James Forney, George Fry, Henry Fizer, James Campbell, Barney McSherry, Sylvester Thacher, Anthony Fulton, John Packett who "bought the lot on the branch where the still house is," Nicholas Schal, Patrick Gorman, William Figg, Mary Hoge, David Blue, Isaac Deaver, Christian Bloom, John Irwin, George Irwin, John McKnight who bought the "lot near meeting house near heavy stone lane," Isaac Williams, William Loury, Lodowick Fry, John Endsley, Peter Pultz, John Eskard, Hermon McKnight, William Baylor, Isaac Walters, Thomas Irwin, Joseph Stone.

Such progress had been made in town promotion it was decided that a charter of incorporation should be had from the General Assembly. In an enactment of January 15, 1798, about the time the last of the lots were sold, the following notation appears:

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, that the lots and streets as the same are already laid off on the lands of John Smith, younger, and William Smith, lying in the County of Berkeley, shall be established a town by the name of Smithfield; and John Packett, Moses Smith, John Smith, Jacob Rees, Joseph Grantham and John Grantham, Jr., gentlemen, constitute the trustees thereof.

Clarksburg, now West Virginia, and Berryville were incorporated at this session of the General Assembly. Accompanying the above enactment a special provision appears relative to ownership and tenure.

If the purchaser of any lot in either of said towns shall fail to build thereon, within the time limited in his deed of conveyance, the trustees of said town, where the lot has been sold by them, and where such failure happens, may thereupon enter into such lot, and sell the same again, and apply the money for the benefit of the inhabitants of said town.

At this time William Tapscott and John Packett had become the leading merchants of the town. They were partners in a mercantile venture and dealt in flour, leather for harness and shoes, salt, dry goods and other articles including whiskey, brandy and gin. Old account books reveal that the staple articles of diet were flour, beef, mutton, pork and salt fish. Packett was one of the first members of the County Court of the newly formed County of Jefferson, and was sheriff at a later date.

How the trustees were selected is not disclosed. By 1804 some changes had come about. The board at this time consisted of John Packett, Moses Smith, Joseph Grantham, John Grantham, Jr., Benjamin Bell and Seth Smith.





MAIN STREET in Middleway of years ago about the same today—peaceful and quiet. In the above scene the horse is contented and the buggy man leans into a convenient window to get the news of the day or greet his friend.



SMITH'S FAMOUS TAVERN at Middleway (Smithfield) came into existence some time after 1810, when Henry Smith (1777-1865) concluded the village needed a good hotel. Henry Smith is not to be confused with John Smith, Jr. the founder of Middleway; however, he married Mary Fry, granddaughter of Middleway's first citizen. It was during the land promotion (lot sales) and the heavy traffic east and west and the village's manufacturing boom that Henry Smith came in from Pennsylvania. At the right (above) the Smith Tavern stands today as a relic of better days.



HOME OF CAPT. JOHN F. SMITH still stands in Middleway. Captain Smith lived to be an aged man. He combined the traits of a country squire with all the characteristics of the "main street" of his day. He was always "the fellowtownsman", a landowner and ran a mercantile business in Smithfield (now Middleway). He was one of the county justices at the indictment (grand jury ) of John Brown in 1859. Captain Smith was sociable by nature, and members of his family would joke that he refrained from eating on the day previous to a banquet in order that he might enjoy the festivities to the utmost.

#### SMITHFIELD SETTLERS MOSTLY ENGLISH

It will be noted that the settlers of the Smithfield community were mostly of English descent as judged by their names. A number of Palatine Germans, however, had moved into the locality from Pennsylvania during the latter half of the Century.

An alluvial plane of some one hundred acres, through which flowed Turkey Run, seemed to the early settlers to be an ideal location for homes. Prior to 1795 houses were evidently scattered at random. It was resolved that the future town should be located here. In 1794 a survey was made and town lots were staked off. An announcement of the promotion was spread through the countryside. In 1795 the project got under way. Both land and lumber were under the same management. Deed forms were prepared which merely required the filling in of blanks. John Smith, III, and Sarah, his wife, concurred in the signing of these indentures which seemed to be almost of a negotiable character as some of the lots changed hands three or four times within a year. The prices of lots varied from £5 to £30. It appears that every lot was disposed of. A building boom was under way. Houses were built flush against the streets which, for the greater part, were log structures not unlike the pioneer cabin they were designed to replace. These were not only plastered within but also without in many

Large flat slabs of limestone were hauled in and these were converted into pavements. Some of these pavements are still in use. The more ambitious builder laid bricks in front of his house, but sidewalks so constructed have fallen into dilapidation.

instances. Some of these houses stand at the present time, and

their whitewashed exteriors present a quaint and venerable ap-

pearance.

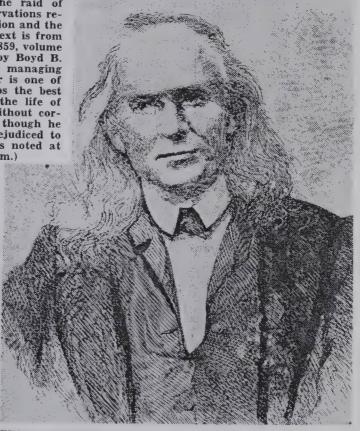
Rudolph Black had been the local tanner. This business was now enlarged and a tannery was put into operation. Craftsmen like tailors, shoemakers, weavers and saddlers began thriving businesses.

Some of the local landed gentry became purchasers of lots. most of the buyers were, or whence they came, cannot at this time be alleged. Many were, no doubt, adventurers such as swarm into a boom town for the purpose of getting rich quickly. A notation appears in the record that one of the purchasers resided in Shepherdstown and a condition precedent to his establishing himself in Smithfield was complied with when Smith's wagons appeared at that place, some fifteen miles distant, to move his effects to his new home. The two main thoroughfares were named King Street and Queen Street. Two other streets intersected these at right angles-Charles Street, which was a continuation of the Charlestown turnpike, and Grace Street which is terminated at the present Grace Protestant Episcopal Church. There were other outlying streets named according to their location -East, West and South. The de-



# The Diary Of Edmund Ruffin ... Ardent States-Righter •••• 1859

(Extracts are presented from the personal diary of Edmund Ruffin, editor, author and Virginia soldier. He fired the first shot on Fort Sumter in 1861. Ruffin came to Charles Town, Jefferson county—then Virginia—after the raid of John Brown at Harpers Ferry. Here he made observations relating to the John Brown raid, the trial, the execution and the subsequent political repercussions. The following text is from the "Diary of Edmund Ruffin, Oct. 19 to Dec. 31, 1859, volume 3, Library of Congress, from photostats secured by Boyd B. Stutler, nationally known West Virginian, now managing editor of The American Legion Magazine. Stutler is one of the best authorities on John Brown with perhaps the best collection of facts, letters and data concerning the life of abolitionist leader. Ruffin's notes are reprinted without correction or deletions and it must be remembered, though he was an ardent Southern sympathizer, perhaps prejudiced to his cause, his comment, conclusions and views as noted at the time, were as he found them and believed them.)



EDMUND RUFFIN—American agriculturist; born in Prince George's county, Virginia, January 5, 1794; died near Danville, Virginia, June 15, 1865. He was educated at William & Mary College; served in the Virginia legislature; was for many years president of Virginia Agriculture Society, and from 1833 to 1842 editor of "The Farmer's Register." He was an ardent States' Rights man. A member of the Palmetto Guard of South Carolina, Ruffin fired the first shot at Fort Sumter in 1861—then 67 years old. After the surrender of the Southern Armies at Appomattox, Virginia, under General Robert E. Lee, on April 9, 1865, Ruffin never became reconciled, and because of his unwillingness to give allegiance to the United States Government, loaded a musket with buckshot, put the muzzle in his mouth and blew the top of his head off. Ruffin left behind a note in which he maintained his "determination to die rather than submit to the union of states." Edmund Ruffin published "Essays on Agricultural Education" (1833); "Anticipations of the Future to Serve as Lessons for the Present Time" (1860), and edited William Byrd's "Westover Manuscripts" (1841). The above portrait is through the courtesy of Harper & Brothers, publishers, from "Adventures of America, 1857-1900" by John A. Kouwenhoven.



Oct. 19, 1859—The papers bring news of remarkable events for our usually quiet and calm population. An insurrection occurred at Harper's Ferry on the night following last Sunday. The insurgents over awed the people of the village, compelled them to remain in their homes, if not made prisoners—took forcible possession of the U.S. Armoury, & public property, killed and wounded some of the inhabitants, stopped the railroad trains and made prisoners (as if for hostages) of reputable neighbors on their farms, several miles off. They were enlisting or forcing others, both white and black, into their The insurgents were reranks ported to be 250 or 300—greatly exaggerated, I suppose. Who they were, and what their object was only guessed at. Armed forces were ordered to move as soon as the outbreak was heard of by the Governor of Va. & the President of the U.S. The neighboring militia and volunteers soon recaptured the village; & when dispersed, the stronghold of the insurgents, the U. S. Armory, was stormed, & all the insurgents killed, wounded or taken prisoners. There were only about 20, of which 15 were killed & of the remaining prisoners, 2 only were not wounded. Several of the assailants were killed and more wounded. Some few of the insurgents had previously gone north-ward, taking some negroes with them. But of all yet known of those engaged, the numbers & their means were as contemptible as the effort was remarkable for boldness & temerity. All the actors are northerners & new comers-even the few negroes, and incredible as it seems at first naming, by rumor, it really seems now most probable that the outbreak was planned and instigated by Northern Abolitionists & with the expectation of thus starting a general slave insurrection. I earnestly hope that such may be the truth of the case. Such a practical exercise of abolition principles is needed to stir the sluggish blood of the South.

Oct. 21—The mail brought additional particulars of the late outbreak at Harpers' Ferry, but no later occurrences after the suppression. There are evidences with the confession of the leader, Brown, that the plan had long been laid by Northern abolitionists. Arms, Sharpes' rifles, revolvers & pikes (for slaves) were provided for several thousand men, & which were all found in Brown's house, in the neighborhood. Every one of the party, white or black, was from the Northern & Northwestern States.

Oct. 24—The mail brought nothing new in the great mass of details, repetitions & contradictory statements, in regard to the Harper's Ferry outbreak. The so-called "republican" (or abolition) newspapers of the North, so far as heard from, make no comment hostile to the actions & instigations. I trust that this diabolical attempt will arouse the Southern people to use new & better means both for precaution & resistance & punishment to abolition actions.

Oct .26—The trial of the few insurgents who still remain alive have already been commenced in Jefferson County. Besides the outbreak in the general, there are several of its incidents that were very strange and remarkable. The leader is John Brown who had before gained notoriety as the leader of the brigands, murderers & robbers kept in arms in Kansas by the "Emigrant Aid Society," of the North, whose object & effect were to put down slaveholding by force of arms & by murder, if not expelling the slaveholders. His murderous feats in Kansas, he afterwards proclaimed in the Northern

States, as a public lecturer. He is as thorough a fanatic as ever suffered martyrdom & a very brave & able man, humble & obscure as has been all his life, except in his later bloody operations in support of the abolition of slavery. seven grown sons he commenced his dangerous and bloody course in Kansas, of which the last remaining two were shot at his side at Harper's Ferry. It is impossible for me not to respect his thorough devotion to his bad course & the undaunted courage with which he has sustained it through all lines & hazards. Among the strange incidents is the entire mistake of so able a conspirator of his support expected from the slave. His 21 men (all coming from the North) in darkness & secrecy took the unguarded U.S. Arsenal, with all its supply of arms. But long before Brown had received from the North 1500 pikes & a large number of fire-arms, all new, from the hands of the manufacturers in New England. He evidently had counted on a general rush to his aid of the slave population, so as to make him immediately stronger than any opposing powers & enable him to put down slavery & even to revolutionize the Federal Government. This is evident from the (word not legible), his papers & his own free statements. But with all his claims of success & of strength & his supremacy in and around Harper's Ferry for 30 hours, not a single slave nor any other resident of the slaveholding country joined his ranks. seizing as prisoners (& hostages) some of the neighboring population, & plundering their valuable property, they forced some of their slaves to go with them. But every such slave used the earliest opportunity to escape & return to their several homes, & not one remained when the insurgent forces were besieged in the arsenal. The entire failure after months of preparation, of obtaining even one slave to join in the attempt at insurrection must (illegible) the Northerners & remove much of their general erron-eous impression of the discontent of the slaves & their readiness for revolt. Another remarkable exposition of the extent of fanaticism of Northern abolitionists. Among the papers & letters of Brown, some show the complicity in the bloody outbreak of sundry persons who could not have expected success, except through bloodshed & horrors beyond example. Among the writers who offer expressions of their sympathy & their encouragement to this murderous and

horrible service are some delicate & well educated women, & others of the peace-loving Quakers!

Oct. 28—The trial of the abolitionist conspirators has been commenced & is in progress.

Nov. 7—(On train, Goldsborough to Petersburg). Made acquaintance with the Rev. —— Owen & had much conversation with him on the recent outbreak at Harper's Ferry and the slavery subject as incidental thereto. Afterwards continued to converse on like subjects with two other neighboring passengers — a Northerner who had long lived in Va. & a German residing in New York. We all agreed very well in the general.

Nov. 10—Looking over accumulated newspapers, Brown & some others of his conspirators have been tried & condemned to death. The more important of the very remarkable circumstances of this conspiracy and outbreak is the very general sympathy exhibited for the criminals, either directly or indirectly through many of the Northern States. The thorough abolition papers & speakers justify and applaud the attempt for everything except its rashness & im-

prudence — and would have re-joiced (as they plainly indicate) at its success even if ever so destructive to the whites. Even the papers always opposed to the abolitionists & desiring to do justice (as they term it) to the South, as the "Journal of Commerce" of Y. is appealing to Va. to pardon the convicts on grounds of mercy, magnanimity & policy. Other less friendly papers are proclaiming that the convicts will not be put to death, because Va. dares not execute the sentence. All these shades of opinoin concur in one general import—which is that the great many of the people of the North, even embracing many who have been deemed most our friends, are more or less enemies of the South, as well as of negro slavery, & do not entirely con-demn the attempts to incite insurrection of the slaves, with all the unspeakable atrocities & horrors which would attend even their partial success in establishing their freedom, even with the aid of our northern white brethren, is utterly impossible. But it is not impossible that renewed & extended attempts of that kind may produce a war of races, to be terminated only in the extermination of the blacks, & ruin, with their victory, to the whites.

Nov. 11—The mail. Gerrit Smith, the great sustainer of the abolition cause & deeply implicated in aiding, by his money, the late attempt of Brown's, is said to be insane—& has been placed in an asylum for lunatics.



Nov. 14—The mails. All the apprehended conspirators & murderers at Harper's Ferry have been tried & condemned to death, except Stevens, who was badly wounded & who has been turned over to the Federal Government to be tried, so that the presence of the Northern abettor, Seward, may be summoned as witness or compelled to come for trial. I predict that this criminal will not be hanged, even if he should be convicted in a Federal court.

Nov. 16-The newspapers show more extension of the Northern feeling favorable to Brown & his gang—the abolitionists justifying their attempt & even the papers deemed conservative & just to the South are asking for their pardon on the grounds of policy—that is that the Northern people and opinion may not be more exasperated. but conciliated and soothed! More developments of Northern conspirators in Tennessee. Everything seems to indicate that, contemptible as are the overt acts of the conspirators, & easily & effectually as their outbreak was suppressed, the plan had long been laid, & had abettors throughout the Northern States & Canada.

Nov. 18-The mails brought telegraphic reports of sundry rumors & alarms about Harper's Ferry, which I will append. It is astonishing even to me & also very gratifying to me, that there should be so general an excitement & avowed sympathy among the people of the North for the late atrocious conspiracy & outbreak & for the villains engaged therein. If there are not serious & even effective efforts to rescue the condemned criminals it will be for want of courage & not want of sympathy. And in the South, as well as the North, the excitement has been increasing and will be productive (I trust) of important results. We may now see that a great majority of the Northern people are so much the enemies of negro slavery that they sympathise even with treason. murder and every accompaniment of insurrection & with the worst criminals acting therein to overthrow slavery. The northern friends of the South are so few, or so timid, that more of them remain silent, or join in the general claim for mercy & pardon to Brown & his associates. This must open the eves of the people of the South who have heretofore trusted to the justice & forbearance of the maiority of the Northern people-& it will be evident to many who have most feared and abhorred disunion that that will be the only safeguard from the insane hostility of the North to Southern institutions & interests.

Nov. 16 (Add)—Wrote a petition to the Va. Legislature for new & stringent enactments to prevent illegal dealings with slaves by native liquor dealers & receivers of stolen goods & by Northern abolitionists inviting their desertion or insurrection. I trust that the like opinions are becoming general through /irginia. The newspapers tell of various occurrences of Northern or other unknown vagrants being ordered away from the places in which they appeared

Nov. 19—Went to a neighborhood meeting called to settle matters about the general enclosure system of this neighborhood. I used the occasion to offer both my petitions for signatures & met with general approval. There were 24 men only present, & all signed the atest drawn petition which I have designated as the "Harper's Ferry Memorial." I think this outbreak of abolition conspirators & the consequent exasperation of feeling, both North & South, must have important consequences in widening the breach & forwarding the separation of the slaveholding States.

Nov. 21-The five burnings of bar s &c near Charlestown were all of neighboring farmers who had served as jurors in the trial of Brown &c. This indicates pretty clearly that Nor hern abolitionists are the movers. The other alarms, all false, have induced the assembling at Charlestown of more than 1,000 volunteers ordered there by the Governor & who will remain there until after the executions. The great assemblage & the excitement of the public mind must make the occasion very interesting & I have a strong inclination to go there, & I certainly would but for my suffering so much from exposure to cold.

Nov. 24—(At Richmond) Many persons heretofore the most "conservative", or submissive to Northern usurpations & aggressions & clinging to the Union under all circumstances, are now saying that something must be done by the South—& separation is admitted by others as the coming result, if not the safeguard of slavery in the South, & of all valued by the South . . . Governor Wise seems to be acting very foolishly in sending troops to & back. A new howitzer company (& which, by the way, has not been provided with howitzers) was among the number lately sent to Charlestown, on account of the late alarms & soon remanded home. Again this company has been ordered to return to Charlestown & is to set out tonight. The railroad fare will be a very heavy item of expense.

Nov. 26—(Enroute, Richmond to Harper's Ferry). At 6:30 A.M. on the cars & on my way to the "seat of war." . . . At Washington by 2:30 P.M. & reached the Relay House, not far short of Baltimore, after 4. I took the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad & reached Harper's Ferry before 8. Another bad cold seems to be coming on me & other indispositions . . . As soon as I could get a room at the Wager House I retired to it & wrote up my diary for the last two days & read the last newspaper.

Nov. 27-My cold better & my indisposition nearly removed. Walked to see the sublime scenery of this place—which however falls far below Mr. Jefferson's description, for which however he drew upon his imagination, as he had not seen it. The almost perpendicular & in some cases overhanging cliffs of limestone on both sides of the rivers at the junction of the Shenandoah and Potomac, very grand & the rivers beautiful. After breakfast I called on Mr. A. Barbour, the Superintendent of the S. Arsenal, & had with him & with others much interesting conversation on the incidents of the outbreak of the abolitionist invaders & its suppression. Mr. Barbour was absent at the time, I saw and heard the reports of several who were actors in the fight or prisoners to the outlaws. I saw the engine house into which they retreated with their prisoners held as hostages & which remains just as it was left after its being stormed & showing evidences of the dangerous situations of both the defenders & their assailants. The doors piereced by rifle balls & the one shattered as it was broken

down by the U.S. Marines. But long before that time the cutlaws had really been defeated & three fourths of their whole number killed by the people of the village & the neighborhood— who had the remaining 5 surrounded and entrapped in this engine house without possibility of their escape. The more speedy assaulted was only prevented by the assailants knowing that there were twice as many of their neighbors & friends prisoners & equally exposed to their fire as the outlaws. Considering the total ignorance of who & what the foes were & their numbers exaggerated to hundreds & the total want of preparation, of arms (at first) & ammunition, & of military organization, I think that the inhabitants acted well & bravely. In fact Brown was defeated before he took refuge in the engine house-& nearly all of his men who were killed, did not retreat to the place of refuge.—The village full of troops. One company of volunteers stationed here. others arrived last night from Wheeling. One of them is com-posed entirely of Germans, & it seems strange to hear the men of a Virginia volunteer company talking! with each other in a foreign language. There would have been no train today on the Winchester Railroad-but 80 of the cadets of the Military Institute arrived by a special train from Richmond & were sent on to Charlestown at 1 P.M. I went on this train. As soon as I left the train at Charlestown I was accosted by Mr. Hawks who introduced himself & invited me to go to his house & remain, in so cordial & hospitable manner that I could not refuse & especially as no vacant place could be obtained for a lodger at a public house. Mr. Hawks is entertaining others & I met at his house & table, of my acquaintance, Col. August & Capt. George Randolph of Richmond,



Col. Smith, Commander of the Military Institute & to supper Gen. Taliaferro, who by the family favor of Gov. Wise, & his higher though recent rank, is commander in chief over older & better officers. I met in the streets many others whom I knew-and many young men, I suppose of the Richmond and Petersburg companies, saluted me as we passed, though I did not know them. It is a stirring time. There was a dress parade in the afternoon, & there is very little indication of the day being Sunday, Rumors of alarms, & coming through persons in service, are still coming in. A telegram to Mr. Barbour this forenoon, from Hagerstown, Md., sent by an employed agent, announced the appearance of "trouble ahead." At night videttes reported seeing rockets thrown up in the neighboring mountains. I think that it is extremely improbable that any attempt to rescue Brown & the other prisoners will be made, in the face of the large force assembled. Still, with the great population at the North, & the violent fanatical hatred of the South & of negro slavery there prevailing, it is not improvible the total large had not been stated in the south of the so impossible that a large body of desperadoes may be sent out to attempt a rescue. The facility of approach to Harper's Ferry & Charlestown by railroads from three directions, & the thousands of persons who will come to witness the execution, it would not be difficult for 500 or even 1,000 to come as rescuers, & to pass as innocent visitors from Virginia & Maryland. Some discreet men here think that there are agents unknown in this village, & that it is to communicate with them that the rockets are fired in the mountains, as signals. Col. Smith, in whose opinion I place more confidence than in any other, thinks that if any rescue is attempted, it will begin by setting fire to the town. The patrol duty, in the village, & through the

surrounding country is strict, & very severe on the military, & also those not in military service. For my part, I wish that the abolitinists of the North may attempt a rescue. If it is done, & defeated, every one engaged will be put to death like wolves. And even the possible success of the attempt may be wished, & the killing of many good men on our side, for the benefit of the results. If an armed attempt to rescue is made, accompanied by bloodshed, whether successful or not, it will be a certain cause of separation of the Southern from the Northern States. In ordinary cases it would be too absurd a supposition for any one to entertain, that any person would attempt to rescue from deserved puishment these atrocious villains—who even long before this last offense had been guilty of crimes deserving death. Yet such crimes deserving death. is the direction of the Northern mind in their favor, so general, & so furious the zeal of many for their escape, that no doubt everything possible would have been done for this end, if a strong military force & other measures of preservation had not been used.

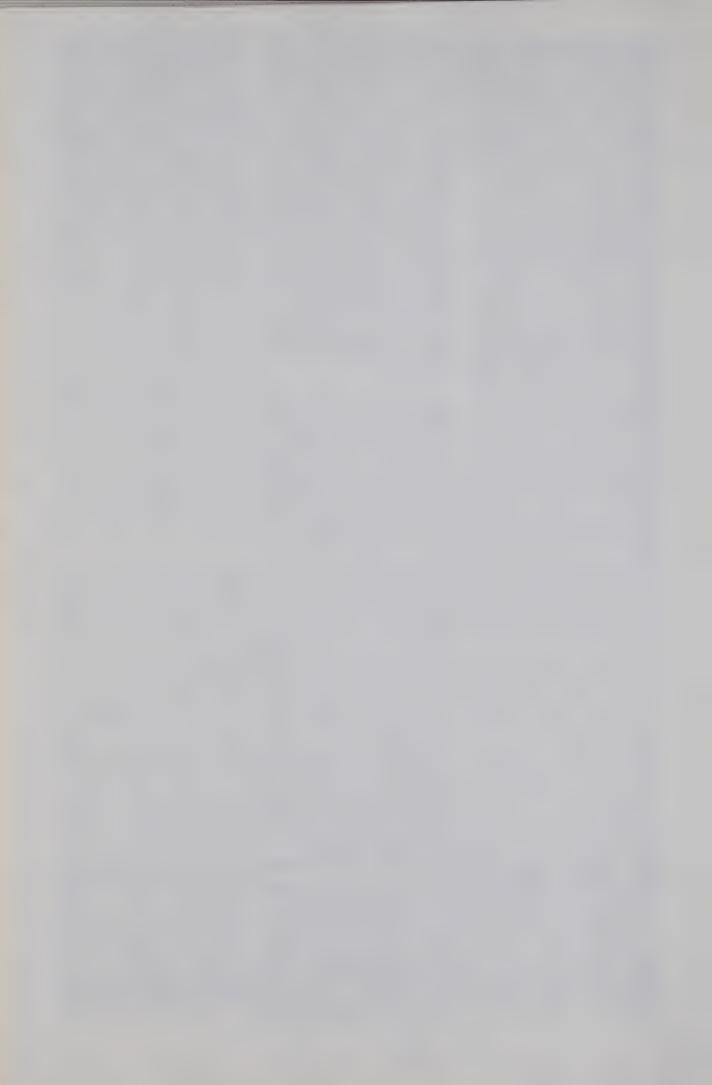
The murderer & robber & fire- | personal acquaintance of Strother, carrier so notorious for these crimes in his Kansas career, & now the attempter of the thousand-fold horrors in Virginia, is, for these reasons, the present popular idol of the North. In one of the many eulogies lately pronounced Brown, & from the pulpit, the Rev. Mr. Wheelock declared, in a sermon, that Brown, if at large, could command the vote of the Northern States for the Presidency by a majority of a million votes. Any amount of money required would be raised to pay for his rescue, & doubtless thousands of desperadoes would be ready to enlist for the service, & the glory as well as the payment for deed.—Col August, the officer of the day, and my fellow lodger with Mr. Hawks, promised to let me go with him on the "grand rounds" tonight to visit the posted sentinels surrounding the town. To be ready for this, I remained alone in the parlor, sitting or reclining in a rocking chair be-fore a good coal fire, & passed the time in writing & reading, & might have slept well, but did not feel so disposed.

Nov. 28 - (Charlestown). The grand rounds were designed to be begun between 12 & 1. But some of the usual false alarms caused several sentinels on their posts, to challenge & to fire at some supposed object - & these foolish alarms had required Col. August's attention & delayed him until 3 in the morning before he called me. I accompanied him & the general. & other officers on their route & duty. It was only disagreeable on account of the very rough & stony ground, & the darkness which made it difficult to find good ground. At half after 4 I returned and got to bed, & slept until roused before 8, when I rose, entirely refreshed, & well. After breakfast, the Rev. Mr. North, the brother-in-law of Mr. Hawks, came & desired me as his guesthe (being a resident of the upper margin of the town) had no regular guests, & Mr. Hawks' table was filled, I readily agreed to go to Mr. North's, & to be there to dinner. as I did. Saw in the street, (where I & most other non-residents spend most of the day), Col. Braxton Davenport, the only former acquaintance I have in this county. Promised to go out to his farm (near town) & to spend tonight & tomorrow to dinner with him. In the course of the day, I saw & was introduced to sundry persons who had figured in the recent events. One was Col. Washington, who was taken prisoner in his bed, & with all his negroes, carried by Cook to Harper's Ferry, & detained for 40 hours in the Engine

House, & until it was stormed; Lieut. Green of the Marines, who headed the storming party, & who captured Brown after dealing to him a last disabling cut with his sabre. It had never been sharpened, & its dull edge alone prevented the cut being fatal; Judge Parker, who presided at the trial; Henry Davenport, son of Col. D., who is Lieutenant of the Jefferson volunteer company, shared in the battle. I also met with & made the

(Porte Crayon) whose delineations with both pencil & pen I have seen with much pleasure, & whom I have long desired to know personally. Two companies arrived here yesterday, & five more (volunteer companies) came today. There must now be 1500 troops in Charlestown, & several more hundreds in adjacent quarters. Among the newly arrived private volunteers from Petersburg, I saw my old friend Hugh Nelson, who is 67, and here for this occasion put on uniform, & came to serve as a private soldier. I should like to assume a similar position, if my more than useless left hand did not disable me from shouldering a musket, or supporting it to fire-- or even grasping a bridle, if on horseback. Also met, among the new arrivals, my friend W. W. Gilmer of Albemarle, whose presence, as always. is very noisy & very amusing. & also to those who know him well. very gratifying for better reasons than his power to produce merriment & laughter. In the evening Col. Davenport came for me, & we drove to his residence. At night, there was added to us, Henry Dav-enport, Mr. Pennybacker, a member of the Senate of Va., & Mr. Smith, a lawyer of distinction, & all volunteers on duty. An animated conversation of the recent events, & especially the hostile disposition evinced by the Northern people, & this as a provocation of, & probable means for, the secession of the Southern States. This I advocated strenuously, seemingly with effect on my younger auditors. Col. D. was silent on this subject.

Nov. 29 - (Charlestown). After breakfast Col. Davenport & walked out to give me a view of his extensive, fertile & beautiful farm. I never saw more beautiful farming land. And though the Jefferson lands generally are far from equal to this farm in maintenance improvement of fertility, yet the like general features, & high grade of natural fertility & value pervade the whole of this part of the great "Valley" of Virginia. Saw Col. D.'s flock of Cashmire goats of which 5 are full blooded. & the remainder of some 20 in all, are different grades of mixed blood. He also has a few Nubian sheep, which having hair instead of wool, are of no value except for the flesh, & as curiosities. After dinner drove to Charlestown.-Within a few hours after I had written up the report of rockets, I heard the solution of the mystery. When we went on the grand rounds, Capt. George Randolph, who commanded the patrol, had satisfied himself & others that the supposed rockets were merely sparks of distant chimneys seen over intervening houses, which prevented their sources being seen. The imagination of the viewers, placing these lights as far off as the mountains, of course enlarged the sizes in proportion to the distance. And with this "looming" caused by imaginary distance, the resemblance was enough to deceive. After dinner we drove to Charlestown.



I read the newspapers in one of the newspaper offices, to which I had been invited, & attend every day. At night went back to Mr. North's to sup & lodge. My last petition appears today in one of the town papers, together with my late resolution—& the latter in two of the Richmond papers also. I have placed copies of the petition in the hands of several zealous officers (?) who I hope will do good service in obtaining signatures.

Nov. 30--(Charlestown). Several more arrests today of suspicious characters — & one prisoner, arrested in Harrisonburg & sent here, is fully believed to be one of the outlaws. Others who are strangers & can furnish no vouchers of good character, are ordered off, & rut across the Potomac. The town is every day more crowded with military & visitors. Today were commenced more strict orders to exclude all unknown newcomers, & increased guards. & the whole body of troops kept ready for action, day & night. There seems to be almost a suspension of business in the town. The weather has been very fine—& it seems as if every man & boy was in the main street, which is crowded with people, military & others, all day-& the females looking on, especially during parade hours, from the houses & sidewalks. Every day the interest & excitement are increased. I feel my youthful military fervor, which has been asleep for nearly 45 years, awakening & growing. Tried to make some arrangements for my serving in one of the companies on the 2d Dec. when Brown is to be executed, if he does not escape, or be rescued earlier. And there are persons, & some who are neither weak nor timid, who believe there is still danger of attempted rescue. This is because of the plans known to have been laid, & of the number (computed at 2000) of the desperadoes connected with Brown, & sworn to obey him, & to defend or avenge each other. Besides there is all the influence of extended Northern sympathy, & the enormous amount of money that is doubtless offered for This robber & Brown's rescue. murderer & villain of unmitigated turpitude, even before this last conspiracy & attempt, is now the idol of the abolitionists, & perhaps of the majority of all the Northern people.—The number of troops in Charlestown has been exaggerated. I heard this afternoon that there were not more than 1300 in this town. Some 4 or 5 of the companies are well drilled. But all the others have been newly raised, & have had but little opportunity to acquire good training. But every company is composed of the best materials-& who would fight as well as any troops not much older in training & service.—Dined at Mr. Andrew Hunter's, with Porte Crayon. Afternoon spent, as usual,

Dec. 1—(Charlestown) The sentries yesterday were placed for day as well as night, & those on the routes ordered to arrest every person not known. The first effect of this order, was to stop on the main entrance to town, many persons of all descriptions, including ladies, negro-women & children. I was invited to dine with Mr. Hunter, whose house is at the outskirt, & was among the first who were ar-rested, & marched through the main street, under guard, to the guard-house, to be examined & released. This was but an amusing incident, of the foolishly executed order. But in design, & in subsequent & corrected operation, it is the proper course, & with the other new arrangements, will render any assemblage of dangerous strangers for a rescue, impossible. Also the cars on the railroads are now examined, & no unknown or suspicious persons allowed to stop, or to come to this place. Any especially suspicious are turned back on their route, whether they came from North or West. Four members of Congress from Ohio, on their way to Washington, wanted to come here from Harper's Ferry, but were not permitted to stop Still, however, another came today, & no Northern or Western man is prevented, if he brings satisfactory vouchers for his character & conduct. The governor has issued a proclamation recommending everybody to stay at home—& it is understood that none except the military, & others in some official position will be allowed to come near the execution. To obtain the means of being near, & also of siding, if any military action should be by possibility needed, I have obtained the leave & aid of Col. Smith, commanding the cadets of the Military Institute, for me to join for tomorrow that admirable corps. Thus, I shall occupy the somewhat ludicrous position of being the youngest member (or recruit) of this company of boyish soldiers. I received today, on loan, the arms, & the uniform overcoat of a private, for my use tomorrow. -I wrote yesterday a label for the pike which I am to have, of the number captured from Brown, & today I pasted a copy, in large letters, on the handle of one in possession of Mr. Hawks, thus: "Sample of the favors designed for us by our Northern Brethren." The

of the majority of all the Northern people.—The number of troops in Charlestown has been exaggerated. I heard this afternoon that there were not more than 1300 in this town. Some 4 or 5 of the companies are well drilled. But all the others have been newly raised, & have had but little opportunity to acquire good training. But every company is composed of the best materials—& who would fight as well as any troops not much older in training & service.—Dined at Mr. Hunter's. There I saw, with great pleasure, the portfolio of Mr. Strother, containing many of his unpublished drawings. —Brown's wife arrived last night at Harper's Ferry, & asked leave to visit her husband. It was permitted—& a carriage with a guard of dragoons, (for her protection) was sent for her. She arrived here,

so escorted, & also a U. S. military officer rode in the carriage with her. Several hundred U. S. infantry arrived at Harper's Ferry yesterday. It is a pity that 20 of them had not been kept there before Brown's seizing the arsenal, & its only 4 unarmed watchmen.—Arranged with Major Gilham of the Military Institute, & Officer of the Day, to attend him on the grand rounds tonight—which I shall set up to wait for, either awake, or partly sleeping in a rocking chair—& reading.

Dec. 2—(Charlestown). After 2 A.M. Major Gilham called for me. & I walked the grand rounds with him. Returned after 4, & did not go to bed, but slept on a sofa until roused by the beat of drums at day-break, when I rose to get ready for parade at 7:30. Went in my borrowed uniform overcoat & arms of the Virginia Military Institute, to join the corps of Cadets for the day, & so to witness the execution of Brown. When I made my appearance, I could see what was very natural and excusable, that my position was very amus-ing, and perhaps ludicrous, to the young men, & it required all the constraint of their good manners to hide their merriment. However, I entered into familiar chat with them, & soon made some acquaintance, & before half the duty for the day was over. I think from their manner, that I had gained much on their favor, & perhaps on their respect. Luckily for me, the exercises for this occasion consisted merely of marching, & with some wheeling, which I could perform well. I remembered enough of my youthful military service to march well, without music, or signal of any kind, and in the march of more than two miles to & from the ground, the keeping of time & step I could do as well as any one. So my awkardness in the other matters of the drill was not exposed, & my service was performed very creditably, & caused me to receive sundry compliments from spectators afterwards. Before 9 we marched to the execution ground, & as with all the companies, & also returning, without music, or even the tap of a drum. We stood on our ground for two hours before the prisoner Brown was brought from the jail, under a strong escort of troops. Except a few persons, having special claims of office, preference, &c, no spectator was allowed on the ground except the military on duty there. All others who obtained entrance, were under some pretense & assumption of military office, or duty. The gallows was erected in the middle of a field of more than 30 acres, surrounded by a straight rail or plank fence. All persons having no business had been, by the Governor's proclamation, correctly advised to remain at home. The neighboring residents of both town & county were the more ready to obey this advice, because they feared the occasion would be used to burn the town, or other



buildings. Even of the military large numbers were serving on piquet guard, or as patrol parties (of cavalry) at different distances outside of the enclosure, to keep off all persons approaching who were not known as good citizens. So, except the troops on duty, infantry, Cavalry & artillery, there were very few present, & there was good opportunity for all to see who were near enough. Our company was nearest, & about 50 yards from the gallows, & facing its later occupants. After 11, Brown was brought, in a light & open wagon, sitting on his coffin, & with the Sheriff, Jailor, & another assistant. As Brown came near to the gallows, I recognized him by his likeness to the published portraits. His arms were closely pinioned at the elbows, by a cord crossing his back. As he passed by the gallows. he looked at it intently. After being assisted to alight, which the confinement of his arms required, he ascended the steps of the scaffold, with his attendants, with readiness & seeming alacrity. There was a dead silence among the surrounding troops, (all the best drilled companies), & all other spectators. Nothing was said by the criminal, or on the scaffold, except in such low tones that the high wind, blowing from our line, prevented our hearing a word. I learned afterwards that he said very little, & nothing that was not required, & in relation to the work in hand. His movements & manner gave no evidence of his being either terrified or concerned, & he went through what was required of him apparently with as little agitation as if he had been the willing assistant, instead of the victim. The halter was adjusted around his neck, and fastened around with a cord. A large hood of white linen was placed over his head, through an aperature in which the halter passed. The criminal stood erect, & must then have expected every moment to be his last. But all the troops which had formed his escort had not yet reached their assigned positions, & halted there, & waiting for this the signal was still delayed. This delay seemed to me full five minutes, or longerduring all which time, Brown stood erect, & as motionless as if he had been a statue. Not the smallest movement, or shifting of position was visible to me, & no shrinking or failing of the body to the wind. because of the long continuance of this awful state of suspense. This (as it seemed to me) cruel & most trying infliction was not intended. for in every respect his treatment had been very indulgent & kind, notwithstanding his atrocious crimes, & worse intentions. At last however the signal was given, & the Sheriff left the platform & it instantly dropped, leaving the criminal suspended by the halter. the The fall was not more than 12 or 15 inches. I could not perceive the least movement of the body or limbs for about a minute of time after the fall. But after about a minute, the hands were moved convulsively, but still only slightly, for a short time. Then again the whole frame seemed motionless

But I might possibly have been deceived in this, as the wind caused the suspended body to sway like a pendulum during all the time. After some five minutes or more of real or apparent entire absence of motion, I perceived slight convulsive motions of the legs, which also soon ceased, & all was still, & sc remained, except the swaying of the body to & fro by the wind When about half an hour had passed, physicians examined to find whether life was extinct; at nearly 45 minutes, the body was lifted, & placed in the coffin to be delivered (as had been requested) to the care of his wife, to carry northward. She had returned to Harper's Ferry, where the body will be sent to her this evening, after some detention here in the jail, & further medical examination, to be sure of life being extinguished. The return of the

corpse to the jail was accompanied by the same numerous escort, of several uniformed companies. This was the only part of the ceremonies & conduct which I think was decidedly objectionable. It seemed like offering evidence of respect & honorable attention to the atrocious criminal. The procedure throughout was orderly and solemn. During the execution, not the sound of any voice was heard in the large assemblage, all of whom heartily approved & re-joiced in the infliction of the punishment. And afterwards, after life seemed extinct, the interesting incidents, or other opinions, were conversed on by the spectators in voices so low as not to be heard except to those within a few feet distance. As soon as the body was removed, the remaining troops marched back to their quarters in the same stillness & decorum, as before. The fine band of music accompanied the march, but not a note was sounded before all the troops were again in quarters, & until the afternoon parade. The villain whose life has thus been The forfeited, possessed but one virtue (if it should be so called), or one quality that is more highly esteemed by the world than the most rare & perfect virtues. This is physical or animal courage, or the most complete fearlessness of & insensibility to danger & death. In this quality he seems to me to have had few equals. The fatigue of the forenoon & my loss of sleep last night made me very tired & sleepy in the afternoon. After writing the foregoing notes of the day, I shall go to bed earlier than usual. \* \*

Dec. 3—(Charlestown) The weather has been clear & latterly also warm, until today—when it was first drizzly, & afterwards fine hail & snow, & at night the earth covered with sleet.—Three of the volunteer companies discharged & sent home by this morning's train, & more soon to follow. All ought to be, except a guard of 100 men for the remaining criminals, to be hung on the 16th. For Brown, the idol of the Northern abolitionists, any amount of effort to rescue might have been apprehended. But for the inferior villains, under sen-

tence of death, or yet to be tried. it is not likely that any 20 men would risk their lives to save.—As I wish to stop in Washington during the heat of the expected contest for the election of Speaker, which will commence with the session of Congress on the 5th, I shall wait a few days longer, & this will (give) me time to accept some of the sundry invitations that have been pressed upon me to visit proprietors in the adjacent country. I fixed on John A. Thompson, a gentleman whom I became acquainted with some years ago, & whom I met in Charlestown. I left my kind host, Mr. North. & after waiting for the train to Winchester long after its due time, went on it 7 miles to Summit Point station. whence I walked a short distance to Mr. Thompson's house. He had gone to Charlestown this morning, & the bad weather had prevented our meeting there—but returned some hour or two after my arrival at his home. In the meantime I had been kindly received & well entertained by his daughter, who had seen me before, & by the other members of his family at home Conversation almost entirely on subjects suggested or in connection with Brown & his attempt. Gov Wise, in his speech at Richmond, after his return from Harper's Ferry, published to the world two great mistakes of his making, & in both he has given our Northern tradesmen & the worshippers of Brown, a great support & aid. for his first, though erroneous opinion. that the people of the vicinity were

wanting in proper courage & conduct in not capturing all the insurgents much earlier, & without the aid of the Marines, he was very excusable. But he might have learned his mistake on the spot-& not have published what was an unfounded calumny, if he had been truly informed. In his remarks on Brown, he had given him a high eulogy for truth & other noble qualicies, of which he was perfectly destitute—possessing only that of physical courage. And this false eulogy, coming from the lips of an enemy, & the Governor of Virginia, will be used for his vindication & glorification by the Northern abolitionists, with great force, & more effect than, to Northern understandings, the full truth, or any opposing argument can ever overcome. I predict that when a monument shall be erected to Brown in the North (as it certainly will,) some of the extravagant & false eulogistic expressions of Wise will be there copied & inscribed, as the best possible evidence of his excellent merits & noble qualities. The whole South, in this great controversy & coming struggle, will suffer for this wretched blunder of Governor Wise. If any one man's testimony can establish the claim of this atrocious villain to be a man of "clear head, of courage, fortitude, & simple engenuousness"... "humane to his prisoners, who inspired me (Gov. Wise) with great trust in his integrity as a man of truth"... And "He is firm, truthful, & intelligent," it will be established by Gov. Wise. This eulogized miscreant indeed played his part well



enough to deceive Gov. Wise. But his whole course was one of deception & falsehood except when it served his purpose to be "ingenuous." He was "humane to his prisoners" taken at Harper's Ferry, because he held them as hostages, & his one chance for escape, & for life, depended on preserving them. In Kansas he had in like manner taken prisoners from their beds—& had cut their throats, though unoffending & powerless, before the eyes of their wives or mothers.

Col. Smith, of the V.M.I., was officer of the day on the 2nd, & doubtless to him were mainly due the excellent arrangements, & procedure. His corps of Cadets were not in their dress uniformswhich I objected to wearing, because it would have been too laughable on me—but in one equally striking, & more martial in ap-pearance, & which I would have assumed if knowing it in time, so as not to be different from the others. All the privates & noncommissioned officers wore scarlet flannel shirts, bought for the occasion, with their uniform gray pantaloons, & with neither vest nor coat, but only two white shoulder belts crossing over the shirt.

Dec. 4-(At John A. Thompson's, near Summit Point) Sunday. This day continued cloudy, but the sleet is partially melted. Mr. Thompson is a well-read and intelligent man. He is a whig, but not a party man—or about as little a whig as I am a democrat. Though differing entirely on important political questions, we yet concurred in many of our views. His opinions in opposition to our seceding from the Northern States are founded on conditions of this & the more western parts of Virginia which are new to me, & which he deems certain, & which if correctly understood by him are important. He thinks that if separation of the States was effected, & war ensued, or even without war, an army was required to be kept, at the expense of Virginia, in this region, to protect our northern frontier, that the non-slaveholders, who greatly surpass the slaveholders in numbers, would not concur; & that their jealousy of the richer, as well as self-interest. would cause them to side with the North, & to go for the abolition of slavery. He thinks that such would be the case with all Va. west of the Blue Ridge—& that were already evidences of such feeling & opinions of non-slaveholders. The shock thus given to the institution of slavery would endanger its existence, if not overturn it throughout Virginia & Maryland. if not through all the more Scuthern States. With these views, he hinks that the dissolution of the Union would be the death sentence of Southern negro slavery. He also informed me, in connection with this subject, that the greater number of the inhabitants of Harper's Ferry, who are Northerrers & foreigners, workmen in the armoury works, did scarcely anything to quell the late cutbreak—the fighting men being nearly all from the adjacent country & neighboring towns, before the arrival of the

Marines.—Wrote a long letter to Mildred (daughter) & another to my sons Edmund & Julian. After writing these notes for the day, reading the published defense written by Cook, one of the Har-



JOHN BROWN

per's Ferry criminals, to be executed on the 16th. inst.

Dec. 5 - (At Thompson's and Win Turner's, near Summit Point) Still misty & gloomy. After sitting to 11, & supposing some promise of clearing, we set out, as arranged yesterday, in a covered buggy to see the country, & to visit my acacquaintance, Hugh Nelson, in Clarke County. But the worse appearance of the weather forbade, & Mr. Thompson, instead, drove me to Mr. Win Turner's residence, who was a college companion of Edmund's, & who had before invited me to visit him. His house is 5 miles from Mr. Thompson's, & as much from Charlestown. There we determined to stay through the night. We found there with Mr. Turner, Major Armistead of the U. S. Army and Lieut. Green of the U. S. Marines, who was the officer who led the storming party at Harper's Ferry, & finished the contest. Mr. Turner's elder brother, George, a man of high ability & education & worth, was killed there by a shot from the engine house, as he advanced & was in the act of firing on the insurgents. I found all these gentlemen very intelligent & agreeable in conversation. We talked mostly about the present condition of the South, in reference to the hostile spirit shown by the North generally to the South, & the probable consequences of separation of the Southern from the Northern States. All were conservative, in different degrees, or for still adhering to the Union, without further injuries being inflicted, except myself & Lieut. Green, whom I was gratified to find entirely with me. Yet he is a New Yorker by birth, & by residence, before entering the Marine Corps—but is married in Virginia. He thinks that the large majority of the officers of both the army & navy would side with the South, in the event of separation. I enquired of Major

Armistead as to the best lands for settlement of new immigrants, in the new states or territories, of which he has seen much-and of which I wish to be informed, in the event that Virginia will not defend herself & the institution of slavery against the North. He thinks that the lands south of the Red River. in Texas, & within 60 miles of that river & of Fort Towson in the Indian Territory, is the best land he has found in his extensive military wanderings - consisting of inter-mixed patches of wood-land and prairie, on a surface in broad undulations. He was quartered four years with troops at Fort Towson. & found it a healthy place.

Dec. 6—(At Turner's and Charlestown) Still another misty & gloomy morning, & afterwards drizzly. Had intended to take the train this morning, but our break-fast was too late to permit it. So Mr. Turner drove me to Charlestown, where I wished to make my last calls on the new friends made there—as I did on Mr. Hawks—& dined by invitation with Mr. Hunter, & called afterwards on Mr North. At Mr. Hunter's, met with Gen. Taliaferro, & his aid, noted O. J. Wise, son of Gov. Wise. & his mouth-piece, as editor of the Enquirer. When introduced to him. I bowed, without offering to shake hands, & he did the same-& we approached no nearer in the subsequent general & animated conversation. I had stopped first at a hotel, & finding I could have a single room, had taken quarterswhere I went at dark.—Though cut off from most of our intended excursion, I saw, through the thick atmosphere many of the fine farms of this beautiful & fertile country. The land was much as I had been previously taught to expect to see. But there were other features that were unexpected. There were no small properties—& almost every farm, generally of from 300 to 1000 acres, had spacious, costly, & handsome mansions. There are scarcely any very small & poor land-holders, or such as are non-slaveholders. The latter class reside in the sundry villages of this county, as mechanics or shop-keepers, & constitute the much larger number of the white inhabitants.—The newspapers full of the howlings of the Northern abolitionists over Brown's execution, & their glorification of his character & deeds.—I had obtained the only N. Y. Herald which I had seen since leaving Richmond, (of the 5th) & thus accidentally found a passage relating to myself, which otherwise I might have been long before hearing of. I proceeded at once to write a denial, to be sent by next mail to the Herald, & some copies for other papers.

Dec. 7—(Charlestown, Harper's Ferry and Washington) Making hasty arrangements for departing for Harper's Ferry, as previously designed. Ordered the printing of my last night's writing here, & sent off other copies by the mail.



After 10, left on the train & reached Harper's Ferry at 12. This is the fifth successive day of continued very gloomy, & misty or drizzly weather, and this the worst of all, drizzly all day, & rain increasing in afternoon. I stopped here to give a day to viewing the scenery &c., but there is no chance even to go out, so far. If, instead of beautiful, clear weather having continued through the execution day, this long & dismal spell had begun with that day, the Northern fanatics would have seen in it an indication of God's anger with the execution, for which the Heaven was draped in mourning. — After dinner saw Mr. Barbour, the Superintendent, & obtained one of the spears which Brown had brought to arm the slaves whom he counted on joining him. I shall take it home with me, & farther South, if I should go.—The papers show that there is no present prospect of an election of speaker being effected soon in the House of Representatives—where the "Black Republicans" or abolition party want but five votes of a majority, & the remainder are divided into two parties of democrats & "opposition" embracing whigs & "Americans." This last party, though containing but 23 members, of different political creeds, holds the balance of power in their hards. In the meantime, the Harner's Ferry conspiracy has been taken up for mally by the Senate, & the subject is informally agitated in the other house. There will be more & more irritation & exasperation-& it is seriously feared by the lovers of the Union that it may come to an end in the breaking up of this session of Congress.—Dull company as well as gloomy weather. High & very cold wind, & fine hail freezing to sleet. There seems so little probability of weather good enough tomorrow for me to climb the mountains & view the scenery here from the most commanding points, that instead of waiting longer, as designed. I will go by the first train, in the night, to Washington. My object there is to witness something of the present turmoil, & see, if possible, to what early end it is tending.—There are some ?00 U. S. troops assembled here, for the time embracing the two executions (2nd & 16th of Dec.) & then to return to Fortress Monroe, They are here to protect the U.S. arms & other property. It is a rity that 20 of the number had not been kept here before the seizure of the arsenal by Brown with less than-30 men.

Dec. 8—(Washington) At 3 n.M. set out for Washington. Reached the Relay House (9 miles from Baltimore) at 6:30, where we had to wait two hours for the Washington train, where arrived at 10. At Brown's Hotel-where there are many Southern members of Congress. Among them, soon saw of ny former acquaintance, Th. Rufin & Senator Bragg of N. C., Ed-mondson of Va., McQueen of S. C. Also Elwood Fisher. My srear, in the public hall, attracted much notice. After dressing, went to the gallery of the H. of R., which was so full that I could scarcely squeeze in-& then could not hear anything of most of the speeches. I did not know before this compari-

son of my bearing with that of others sitting near me, that my deafness had so much increased. This house is still unable to elect a speaker, & the speeches were all upon the present enmities of the North & South. I trust that the differences & difficulties may increase, & that the State legislature may stand up properly for the rights & dignity of the South, in reference to the outpouring of the hostility & malignity of the North, as shown in the sending out Brown's expedition, & also the general sympathy shown for him since his defeat. If precisely the same course had been pursued by

any one independent nation against another, it would have been good cause for a declaration of war. Opinions of Southern members seem much heated. I understand that they are not less so of the Virginia legislature, who assembled last Monday. I conversed last night with several members of Congress from N. & S. Carolina & Alabama, who were ready for secession. I maintained that the conspiracy of the abolitionists, its outbreak in the invasion of Harper's Ferry, & the very general sympathy of the Northern people with the murderers, afforded the best practical ground for dissolution that the South had ever had-& that it ought not to be passed over. We ought to agitate & exasperate the already highly excited indignation of the South. If we submitted to this, the Northern fanatics would repeat these attempts, while they destroy the safety of the institution of slavery, & soon after, the institution itself.

Dec. 9 — (Washington) Went early to the gallery of the H. of R. & obtained a good seat by aid of an order for my entrance to the ladies' portion. Another ineffectual ballot, & no election. The remainder of the long session spent in violent & turbulent debates, on political quarrels & parties, & two members from Illinois, a Douglas man & an abolitionist, were in touching distance for a fight, when they were separated by their respective friends. A few days ago, there was still more danger of a general row, which, if entered into, would have probably resulted in the death of sundry members. It is understood that many members then armed themselves, for defense. A ballot for speaker was tried, & the largest vote (for a black republican, or abolitionist, Sherman) was still short of a majority by 6 votes. This state of disorganization will continue until one of the other small parties—the Southern whigs or the Douglas democrats—will vote for a plurality to decide, & then, of course, the abolitionists will make that plurality.-About dark fire broke out from one of the furnace flues, in the hotel. It was an hour before it was completely extinguished, and much alarm was excited among many of the inmates. Afterwards called on Senator Clay of Ala., & his wife, who lodge here. Saw that the Tribune of N. Y. had published the false statement of the Herald concerning me-on which account I sent my previous denial to the N. Y. Day Book, with comments.

Dec. 10-(Washington) Saw the first Richmond paper for a week past. It contained my short reply to the article in the N. Y. Herald. -Went early to the H. of R. & stayed until nearly 4, when the eyes & noes were being called on a motion for adjournment. Turbulent debates, as before-but closed by a regular, & uninterrupted speech, of great force, by Curry of Ala. exposing & denouncing the acts & designs of the Northern "republican" party, with much effect.-No letter for me from home, which I am surprised & concerned at. Richmond papers of today containing reports of sundry county meetings in reference to the abolition outbreak at Harper's Ferry, all of which passed strong resolutions. I hope that it is not all gas, which after effervescing and escaping will leave the body of the liquor, flat, stale, & dead.

liquor, flat, stale, & dead. Mr. Washington, of this place, & Gen. Moore, M. C: of Alabama called and sat with me. Our conversation, as almost always of any Southern men, on the present position of the North & the South. Wrote a short article for the Examiner on Brown's pikes, recommending that one shall be sent to every governor of the slave-holding States, to be placed in the legislative halls of each capitol.

Dec. 11—(Washington) Sunday. Did not rise for breakfast until 9, waiting for my fire to burn, instead of which it nearly went out. After breakfast Mr. Curry & Gen. Mc-Queen called & sat with me a while. Subsequently I learned that Gen. Bonham of S. C. is (like the others) lodging close to me, & I visited him at night. In the crowd here, two acquaintances might not see each other for a week, & remain ignorant of being near each other.-Under a sudden thought & impulse, I began to write an article, urging on Virginia the reasons early separation from the Northern States, & leading in the movement for a Southern confederacy. It extended to 10 pages, of which 7 were copied in more legible & corrected writing. At night, mailed the writing to the Richmond Examiner for publication. The night's mail brought me the first letters from any of my family—one from Mildred brought the account of what had been a very distressing accident, but which was then promising to be relieved. In consequence of a false & foolish report, brought to Marlbourne by Dr. Temple, of a concerted plan of insurrection of negroes, to break out that night, Mr. Burwell Sayre, with others agreed to form an armed patrol that night. When met at the old Church hotel, to prepare & set out, he was loading a pistol when, by some strange accident for which no one was to blame, the pistol was discharged, & severely & dangerously wounded a young man named Tanner, who was assisting to load it . . . (family matters-ouarrel with son-in-law)



Dec. 12—(Washington) In the uttered. J. Letcher, our Governorwaited there more than three tedious hours hearing other speeches which were of little interest. Wrote unother short article, & sent it to the Examiner. It seems, from all I hear, that the best spirit prevails among the people of all middle & lower Va. The legislature is going on as well (apparently) as I could hope for, except that no direct preparation for secession, or a convention, has yet been prepared.-... Heard that a speech very of-fensive to the South was today made by Hickman, a Northern abolitionist, who claims to be a democrat. No ballot taken today. Had a singular meeting last night, in the hall, with a man who I had before observed opposite to (me) at dinner. He made himself known to me as Col. Farnham, whom I met here & conversed with last winter, & stated his then com-munications on the matter of the slave ship Wanderer. As then stated, he was one of the officers of that vessel—& has been arrested in New York, a few days ago, on a requisition from Georgia, & is now going to Savannah to be tried as a pirate (an African slave trader) for his life. He was wait-

ing here, for the delay of the efficers, & was at large on his parole, I suppose. He seemed in very good spirits, & expressed the very confident hope that they would not hang him in Savannah—in which I accorded.

Dec. 13—(Washington) Went to the gallery of the H. of R. The notorious Sickles spoke, & I soon was weary, & returned to my lodgings & wrote letters to Mr. W. Sayre (in answer to his) & to Edmund.

Dec. 14—(Washington) The Examiner of yesterday contained my first communication. I am to obtain the fulfillment of the measure proposed much earlier, though in a less imposing manner than I ress imposing market that I proposed. I told Col. Barbour (Superintendent of the Harper's Ferry Armory), whom I saw here today, of what I had done & wished, & he offered to send the requisite number of pikes to me here, for me to supply one to each of the slave-holding States. I am much gratified by this.—Attended first in the gallery of the H. of R. & afterwards of the Senate. Heard our Senator Mason deliver an excellent speech on the conduct of the North & the "republican" party in regard to the Harper's Ferry affair. After an animated debate of more than a week, & strong endeavors of the 22 abolitionists in the Senate indirectly to defeat, his resolution of inquiry into that affair, was carried by a unanimous vote—the abolitionists not daring to vote directly against it, though wishing to do so. The notorious Sumner has resumed his seat. Seward still absent in Europe - by which he has escaped learning the severe and mad versions on his conduct which have been freely

Senate gallery today, expecting to elect, arrived. After dinner I went hear C. C. Clay of Ala. deliver an with him to call on Senators Maappointed speech — but instead son & Hunter. Wrote to Mildred & son & Hunter. Wrote to Mildred & Julian.—No election of speaker yet, & no ballot today.

> Dec. 15—(Washington) Heard in the H. of R. an excellent & sound speech from Vallandigham. Two ballots taken, & no change in the last results, 110 votes for Sherman the abolitionist candidate & for Bocock, the democratic. Some 30 or more votes scattering.—Heard from a gentleman of Jefferson Co. & also from Col. Barbour, that there had been much talk about the charge against me, & my published denial, of Col. Baylor's pretended remarks. My position was perfectly satisfactory, no one doubting that the charge was false -& moreover, it is certain that Baylor did make it, but has since denied that he did so, though it is susceptible of ample proof. I need not further disturb his unenviable position.—At my convenience, writing labels for the expected pikes—& letters to the Governors of the respective slave-holding States, to be sent before or with the pikes.

> Dec. 16 — (Washington) Went this morning to see Mrs. Marion Johnson, & found that her husband, Lieut. Johnson, U.S.N. had lately returned from his cruise, & was at home.—To the gallery of the H. of R. Two more ballots, without any material change of the two larger votes. Speeches from Bonham of S. C. & Simms of Ga. The "republicans" or the Brown-Helper party, as it ought to be designated, have for some days remained mute, under the severe denunciations of the democrats & Southerners. The spirit of disunion seems to be growing fast in Virginia especially, & the other heretofore luke-warm Southern States. Except for the almost total want of arms & military prepara-tion, everything would not seem ripe for striking the first blow for secession of the Southern States. And I would prefer that Virginia should now begin, while the spirit of the people is up, than to let that spirit cool, & have six months of preparation.-The two condemned white prisoners, Cook & Coppic, last night escaped from their jail. but were discovered & shot at by the outer guard, before getting out of the outer wall-& retaken. This is the day for the execution.-Had part in the private & confidential conversations of some five or six members of S. C., N. C. & Ala. in the room of Branch of N. C. At night, again visited & conversed with Mr. Letcher, with other friends of his present.

Dec. 17 — (Washington) After breakfast, I asked Mr. Letcher to my room, where we could be private. We had conversation on the present state of affairs. First requesting him not to answer any questions or remarks of mine that he did not choose, or think it proper to express an opinion of, I asked what he thought of the present prospects of the Union. He answered promptly & plainly that

he thought it must be dissolved. & at no distant time. I then stated that if he was correct in that opinion, the dissolution would occur during his administration, perhaps very early in his term of serviceand that he would commence his administration (Jan. 1, 1860) at a more important crisis, than any other Governor of Va. since Patrick Henry. He seemed to think that there was little that he could do in the remainder of this session of the legislature of Va. as the measures of reform or of preparation had already been marked out, & the work was in progress. I stated my reasons why, notwith-standing this, he could do much, by recommending a convention for Va. & a general convention of the Southern States, and also by his influence, more or less directing other measures that were in progress. I trust that he is a safe & useful man for the crisis, though certainly not a great man. He has a practical mind, is discreet & judicious, & is well acquainted with political events, & men. He is certainly for the dissolution of the Union, under present circumstances, & has no hope for its preservation, together with that of the rights of the people of Va. & of all the South. Again disappointed in not receiving the pikes from Harper's Ferry, by Express. Finished writing the labels for them, & letters to all the 15 governors of slave-holding States-including one to Letcher, which is dated Jan. 1, 1860, & not to be considered as delivered until then. There is some verbal differences in the letters, caused by accidental variations or designed improvements, in writing them. But there is no difference of purport. The large label is like mine, "Sample of the favors designed for us by our Northern Brethren." Some of them also have in small letters added below: "The most precious benefit derived from the Northern States, if, rightly using it, 'out of this nettle danger, we pluck the flower of safety." Two more ballots in the House of Rep. today, & no change in the main votes. The abolitionist candidate Sherman had 110, & still needs 4 more votes to give him a majority—& the democratic candidate has no prospect of increasing his vote much above 85, & no possibility of his being elected. There are enough scattering votes to elect either of the two. The aspect & condition of the body is remarkable. The middle aisle is the separation of the two parties, of democratic & mostly Southern members on the righ' (of the Speaker), & on the left exclusively Northern, & "republican" of abolition, or Brown-Helpe party men. The latter remain mute -neither latterly any are making a speech, nor even questioning or denying any statement of the democratic speakers. Probably the Brown-Helpers think that they cannot defend themselves to any purpose, & so had better receive the censures without reply. It may be that they also fear that con-flict in words might bring on con-



flict in action. It is understood that every member is armed—& any physical collision would probably cost several if not many lives to be lost on the floor of the hall. There is very little intercourse of courtesy between any members of these opposite parties—& as bodies, there is almost no contact or intermingling.

Dec. 18—(Washington) Sunday. I sent a telegraphic dispatch to Harper's Ferry to inquire about the expected pikes, for which I have been now waiting two days -& received no answer. I am almost hopeless of getting them-I cannot wait longer than this night. So I have placed the prevared letters (to the governors) & my instructions, in charge of Senator Clay.—& the labels in charge of his charming wife, who is a true & ardent Southerner, & who will affix them to the pikes should they arrive, & have them distributed .-Elwood Fisher in my room this afternoon, & we had a long conversation. At night, in Mr. Letcher's room, where there were sundry other visitors, & among them, part of the time, Senator Hunter.

Dec. 19—(Washington to Richmond). Left Washington early. Ir the steamboat my pike with its latels attracted much attention. I made a very agreeable acquaintance with ex-Governor McDonald of Ga. who hearing who I was sought me out, to be introduced to me, & then carried me to his wife. I had slightly known her nearly 40

years back, when she was Miss Roane—& by report, have known much more of her from F. G. Ruffin, who stands to her as her adopted son. Both the husband & wife very intelligent & agreeable. They gave me a hearty & cordial invitation to visit them at their residence in Georgia.—Arrived at Richmond at 2 P.M. Was prevented taking a place for the stage to Marlbourne by finding Mr. B. Sayre's luggage here (Exchange Hotel) & a letter from him sent with it, showing that he will be here this evening, & as I inferred, on the way to Ky. Before dark, he and Mildred arrived, with his daughter. . . . Saw Mr. Williams, & sundry former acquaintances in members of the legislature, boarding here. At night, mostly in the parlour, with our family party, & visitors to Mildred, is Col. Reid of Lexington, & Mr. Boulware, & Mr. H. B. Tomlin. Read last portion of my series (Slavery & Free Labor compared) in the course of publication in the Southern Planter, & to go into pamphlet form. Afterwards found it was too late for correction, as the pamphlet sheets were already printed.

Dec. 20 — (Richmond) Was at the Capitol for a short time, & saw a few members of my acquaintance. Saw Col. A. M. Barbour, & was glad to hear from him that he would yet send the 15 pikes to Washington for me—though I do not feel confident of it. Met Mr. Boulware last evening, & F. G. Ruffin today. As Mr. B. Sayre & family go tomorrow morning, I will also leave for Beechwood. Left Mildred at 10 P.M. to let her finish

her preparation & go to bed. Took leave of her.

Dec. 21 - (Richmond and to Beechwood) When I was called up at 5 A.M. & met Mr. W. Sayre. ne told me that his brother & his party were already gone, the hour of their departure being earlier than mine—which neither of us supposed last night. To the steamer, & at Beechwood before 12 M. Found no one at home but Mrs. Lorraine & my little grandson John. Edmund had gone to Petersburg, on his way to Richmond, & Nancy with him as far as Fetersburg. . . From the little that I learned from the members & otherwise, of the course of the legislature, there seems to be a will to put the State in good military condition. Also to draft measures of police &c, to restrain Northern enemies & emissaries, & to restrict Northern trade, & encourage our own production, & direct trade with Europe. This is well so far. But I fear that the warm & angry spirit now prevailing the people of Va. will subside, & cool before it is put to use for asserting our independence. It is true that we are unprepared. in regard to military organization & discipline, & as to arms & all other equipments for defense. But I would prefer that Va. should secede, unprepared as we are, but with this noble spirit of resistance prevailing, to having a year of preparation, & losing that spirit Virginia, the now especially aggrieved & endangered State, would move in advance, but inviting the co-operation of all the othe Southern States, nearly all would follow immediately, & any few remaining, (as probably would Maryland & Tennessee, & perhaps a few others,) would find in a few months that to join their Southern brethern was the only guaranty of their political safety, if not existence. Unprepared as we are, in every slave-holding state except South Carolina, if so far united in secession, & determination to resist attack, we would be strong enough to repel & defend attack & invasion if the Northern State: should be as ill-advised as to make the attempt.

Dec. 22 — (Beechwood) Read some old letters which had been forwarded to me from Marlbourne, them from Dr. S. & one of Barker, of Senate of S. C. which I regret much I did not receive in time. Answered it immediately though too late-on the political state of the South-& sending my free-negro pamphlet, which he wanted. Wrote also to Senator Clay, Gen. McQueen, & sent latest & three pamphle's to them, & to some other members of Congress. Then rode to Ruthven. . . Conversation mostly on recent events connected with Harper's Ferry - & with Julian's own family affairs & difficulties. . .

Dec. 23—(Ruthven and Beechwood) Wrote some letters, one to Mr. Letcher and to members of the Va. legislature on Northern affairs, affecting us. At noon returned to Beechwood. . . . The papers brought news of an important occurrence, of which the

uncertain rumors & anticipations were heard some days before. 267 of the Southern medical students, left their institutions, though they had paid them fees, & came on to

the Medical College of Richmond on the 22nd. This is a notable & important evidence of the prevailing disposition of the people of the South to separation of intercourse with the North. The withdrawing of Southern custom from the North, already, & through the result of individual & separate action, has caused most important losses to many Northern commercial & manufacturing establishments, & caused some large ones to fail & close business. — Very cold.

Dec. 24—(Beechwood) At night read Gov. Wise's message in reference to the Harper's Ferry affair. It is excellent in the general remarks, & far better than anything I have yet seen of his writing or speaking.

Dec. 25 — (Beechwood) Christmas day & Sunday. The children in a turmoil of delight with their presents. . . Our conversation at night mainly on the Harper's Ferry affairs & the present & partly consequent condition of state & political affairs.

Dec. 26—(Beechwood) The mail brought no news. Congress & the Va. legislature doing nothing during Christmas week. . . I received by Mr. Lorraine sheets enough to make 50 of my last pamphlets. Folded & stitched them this forenoon, & began to send them by mail, to members of Congress & others. . . .

Dec. 27—(Beechwood) . . . Conversation at night, E. Lorraine, Edmund & myself, of the recent conspiracy & action of the North, & the probable consequences of secession by the Southern States.

Dec. 28—(Beechwood) ... Young John Newton arrived from Richmond. No news by the mail. Sending copies of my two last pamphlets to members of Congress & other persons.

Dec. 29—(Beechwood) Weather still worse—mostly drizzle most of the day, freezing to sleet as it fell. We were all again expected to dine at Ruthven, but Mr. Lorraine & I only went—& remained all night, on account of the weather. Very cold.

Dec. 30 — (Beechwood) We returned to Beechwood to dinner. All the grown people, except Mrs. Lorraine & myself, were to dine with Mrs. Cooke of Tackay. . . .

Dec. 31—(Beechwood) . . . I finished reading Dicken's last interesting but foolish book "A Tale of Two Cities," which I began in Washington. Also, since here, have reviewed "The Rise of the Dutch Republic." Wrote letters this morning, which were carried by Mr. Newton, who returned to Rich.nond.



This year closes with appear- Sundry measures are now under nees of awful portent to the consideration, & I trust some of ances of awful portent to the Southern States, & to the whole Union. The leading Northern politicians have used the pretense of opposition to negro slavery solely for their own political gain, & selfish objects, until they have made fanatics of the majority of every Northern State. Blind as all fa-natics are, these see no danger, & no evil consequences, in exciting the abolition of slavery in the Southern States, in any manner, & by every available means. They do not believe that there is either courage or strength enough in the South to resist these effects. And probably some would be glad of resistance in arms, as it is fully believed that, in a struggle in arms, between the Southern & the Northern States, all the slaves of the latter would be the ready & zealous allies of the former. The total failure of the recent Northern conspiracy, of which John Brown was the agent, has served to open their eyes in this respect. Therefore, the conquest of the resisting South is expected as certain-bringing with it the annihilation of negro slavery in these States. The Southern States & especially Virginia, have never before been so much aroused by Northern aggressions. The people are in this respect in advance of their legislators & magistrates. Never has there been such an opportunity for secession. But I fear it will be allowed to pass around-& that after the present fever of excitement & indignation, & spirit of resistance, there will succeed a general chill & collapse. The hypocrisy of the pretended horror of slavery as actuating Northern abolitionists is sufficiently manifest in this, that all their effects are directed against these Southern States, where, by universal admission, the condition of bondage is more humane, by far, than any where else. In or for Cuba & Brazil, where it is inhuman & horrible, we never hear of any act, and rarely even a word of censure from the Northern abolitionists. If our secession & independence were once accomplished, & Northern politicians could no longer command votes or power by denouncing slavery, we should be nearly as safe from their anti-slavery actions as are Brazil & Cuba now.

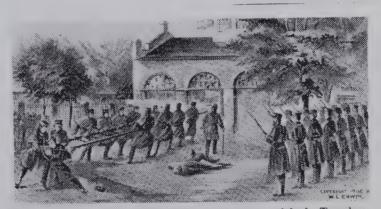
The difficulty of electing a speaker in the House of Representatives is not diminished. The "Brown-Helper" candidate still wants but four votes for his election. Even if no election could be effected through the session, it might not be very injurious to federal & general political interests in ordinary times. But this cause of constant irritation—the hostile attitude of the opposed parties in Congress, & the likelihood of hostile action & bloodshed-serve to foment & irritate the general exasperations. In the mean time, though not one of the Southern States yet expresses, or probably feels, a readiness to secede, in cooperation with others - except South Carolina, which has repeat ed i's long-avowed readiness-still nearly all are arming & preparing to be ready. The legislature of Va. is especially zealous in this effort.

them will be carried out, most of which I have long urged in vain. Besides the general military preparations, the other measures I refer to are, taxing heavily or pro-hibiting the use of Northern products. & trade - cutting off the money for Northern abolitionist emissaries-admitting negro testimony - preventing post-obituary emancipation of slaves-& banishing or enslaving the greater number of negroes now free. If even half of these measures, effecting more than emissaries & trade, are put in force, we may control the North, & save ourselves, within the Union. If none are adopted at this session of the legislature, the next & certain thing will be to submit o Northern dictators, in emancipation & in everything else.

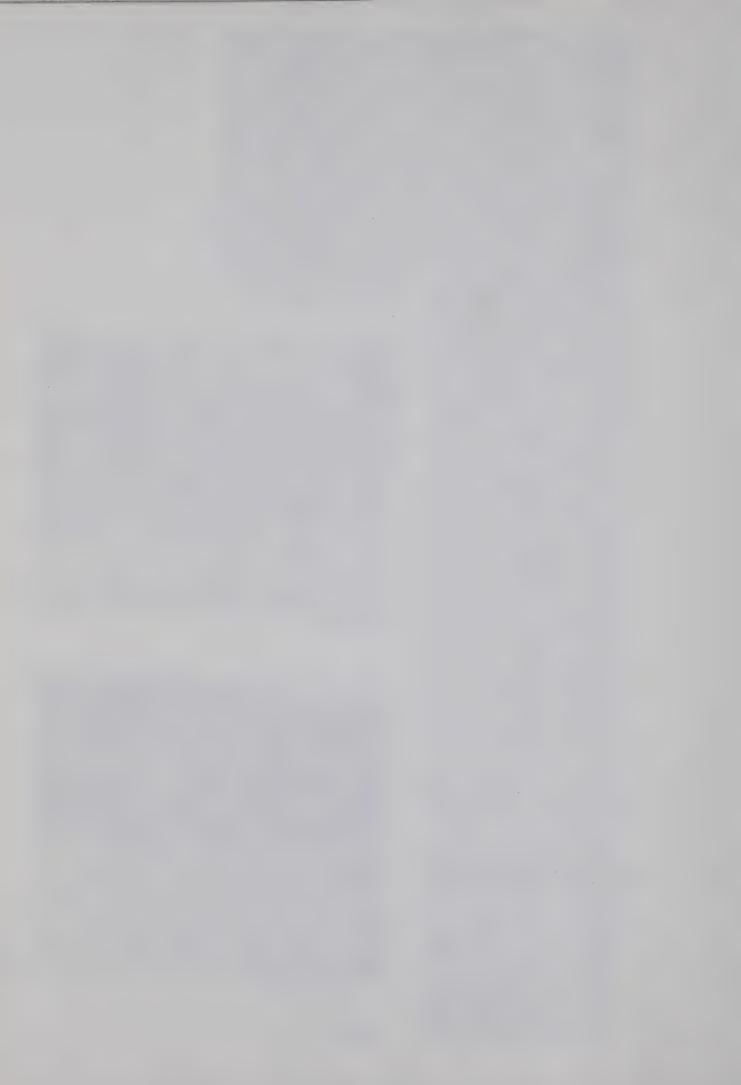
(This ends the diary for 1859)

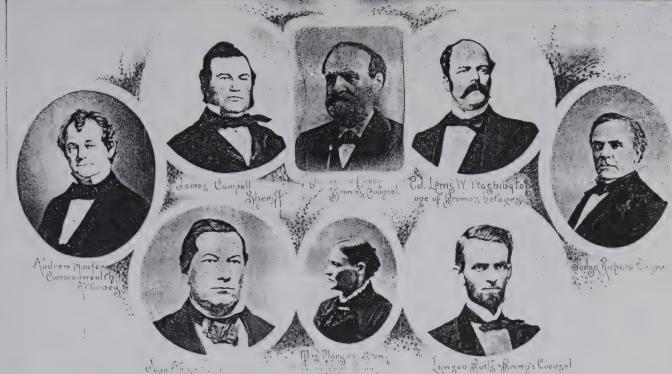


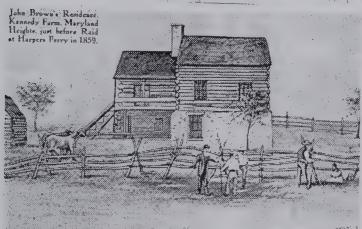
STREET SCENE OF CHARLES TOWN during trial of John At right is Jefferson County Court House; in center is the Old Market House (Charles Washington Hall); at left is east corner of jail where John Brown was incarcerated during trial. Now principal crossing at George and Washington street for highways U. S. 340 and State Route 9, the pen artist sketched the hub-bub in 1859 caused by the treason trial of John Brown.



CAPTURE OF JOHN BROWN. At seven o'clock Tuesday morning, Oct. 18, 1859, Col. Robert E. Lee (afterward the Southern General) who had arrived during the night with a force of U. S. Marines, sent Lt. J. E. B. Stuart (also destined to later fame) to ask for surrender of the Brown garrison. Stuart failed to negotiate terms, and at a signal Col. Lee's Marines swarmed down upon the fire-engine house fort. Unable to break the door with sledge-hammers, the Marines picked up a large ladder and used it as a battering ram (above). (above). Brown and his men were captured and incarcerated in Jefferson county jail.







## JOHN BROWN'S RESIDENCE on the Kennedy Farm, Maryland Heights, across Potomac River from Harpers Ferry. Prior to his raid, John Brown took up residence here five miles from Harpers Ferry and with his band plotted the details for the raid starting in July of 1859.



JOHN BROWN'S BATTLE at Harpers Ferry, opening fire against citizen volunteers and County Militia on Oct. 17, 1859. On Sunday night, Oct. 16, John Brown launched his raid to capture the U. S. Arsenal and Armory, and later Hall's Rifle Works up the Shenandoah River. Brown and a few of his followers were driven to the fire-engine house, near the Armory gate, shown at the right (above), and remained there over night.

### Jefferson County's Circuit Court At John Brown's Trial

The trial of John Brown began on Wednesday, Oct. 26, 1859 and lasted through Monday, Oct. 31, 1859. Brown was convicted of the charges "treason and murder," and was sentenced to be hanged on Friday, Dec. 2, 1859. During the time of his sentence and his execution, Brown was a prisoner in the Jefferson county jail. From out of the past comes the photo engraving at the right, picturing prominent persons in connection with John Brown's trial and execution. In the group of five across the top are, reading from left to right, Andrew Hunter, Commonwealth Attorney; James Campbell, Sheriff of Jefferson County; T. Clairborne Green, appointed Brown's Counsel; Col. Lewis W. Wasaington, one of Brown's hostages; Presiding Judge Richard Parker of Winchester, Va.; and the lower group of three: John Avis, Jailer; Mrs. Mary A. Brown, wife of John Brown; Lawson Botts, appointed Brown's Counsel. At the opening of the trial, Brown contended that he had sent for outside counsel, and after the court had appointed him the counsel of choice from the local bar, Brown asked for a delay in the proceedings; however, after arraignment the trial proceeded.



THE OLD JAIL at Charles Town, W. Va. John Brown leaving the jail on way to execution December 2, 1859. ..The U. S. Post-office now occupies the jail site. ..The spring wagon used for transporting John Brown from jail to the gallows is owned by Melvin T. Strider of Charles Town.



# Heritage And History In The Old Homes Of Jefferson County

By CASKIE NORVELL, II

While its gracious old residences have not received the nationwide publicity of those in neighboring Maryland and Virginia, Jefferson county, West Virginia, boasts some of the finest examples of American architecture, beginning with the primitive log huts, coming along through the Georgian period, the ante-bellum, and Victorian, up to the present day edifices, which tend to combine most of the better points of all the rest. However, it is the old houses of Jeffer-

son which are bringing hundreds of tourists into Jefferson

county each year.

Just now the county of Jefferson is celebrating its 150th anniversary, or sesqui-centennial. However, either of those terms is misleading since they would tend to mark Jefferson's beginnings in 1801. True, the boundaries we observe today were actually set up in that year, but the area was settled almost a century earlier. In those long gone days what we now know as Jefferson county, West Virginia, was simply a part of old Frederick county, Virginia, which contained a vast area, now sub-divided. The first sub-division created Berkeley county: and then that too was Jefferson county, as Jefferson county, as Jefferson county, Virginia. Not until the War Between the States (1861-65) did Jefferson county, West Virginia become an entity. However, the great houses erected in the earlier era were impervious to the passing years, to the splitting up of counties, and to the marching men of war. And they remain with us today, some restored to their original grandeur, while yet others await the sympathetic hands of the restorers. There are some beyond reclamation unfortunately, and more lamentable yet are those which have either been demolished in the deluded name of "progress," or have simply fallen under the pressure of the years. But there are a good many left, and it is of those we would tell

With so many old homes in the county it would be impossible to include each and every one of them in this story. Old records have been lost, many fine old homes have virtually lost their identity as such because of their location on sometimes impassable roads, and still others have been missed by the human element unfortunately present in all chroniclers. Hence, no attempt is made here to present an infallible reference work, but instead we wish to spread before you a general picture of residential architecture in Jef-

ferson county, in order that the various houses making up the component parts of our picture may county home is not included, it does not mean that it is of less importance or beauty than one which was reported on. It is merely proof that ancient records and word-ofmouth accounts of Jefferson county history are not infallible.

In writing of old houses a good beginning point would be the oldest house in the county. Had we started this two years ago, the beginning would have been simpliin Shepherdstown, which was definitely established as the oldest

the State of West Virginia. nouse, said to have been built in the early 1700's by Richard Morgan, was unfortunately demolished about two years ago. In the wake of its demolition several houses nave come forward to claim the privilege of succession to the title or "oldest house." So vague are the records on the subject, that it is impossible to state unequivocally that this house or that is the oldest house now standing in Jefferson county .It seems reasonably safe, however, to say that among the most likely claimants of the laurels would be an old house on the Mc Garry farm, near Bardane, ancient stone edifice called "Keep Tryst," (built by Israel Friend, a Quaker, around 1734) at the old ore bank, near Bakerton, Spring," now the home of I. N. Bonham, near Summit Point, and the old White House Tavern, in the same neighborhood, now the residence of Edward L. Blake. Undoubtedly there are others who can make claims to the "oldest house" title, but we do know that the four mentioned were all prior to 1740. however the first settlers came to the area years before that date, this quartet of residences can defi-

While the homes of the Washington family have received more national publicity than any others. they are not the oldest homes in the county, and there are some who say that the most beautiful home is not to be found among them. On the other side of the argument is the historian who described Bushrod Washington's "Claymont Court" as "the noblest home in all the Shenandoah." Antiquity is a matter of fact; but beauty is a matter of opinion.

Naturally, the early settlers built their homes with primitive tools fit into their proper places, giving and materials. They often built a picturesque whole. If a Jefferson hurriedly, always on the alert for the ever-present Indian menace. As they became established, brought in their crops, took on civic responsibility, owned slaves and fought wars a new opulence came into their living, and it was in this latter period that great houses such as Happy Retreat, Falling Spring, Claymont Court, Blakeley, Piedmont and others were erected.

Much of Jefferson's really fine fied because a house was standing architecture is located in the rural reaches of the county, some of it remotely situated on well nigh imhouse in Jefferson county—also passable roads. Very few of the great houses are within, or adjacent to, the county's principal settlements. Charles Town is the county seat, and the farming area radiates from it. Shepherdstown, with its college, is a place of considerable importance, while Har-

> pers Ferry is somnolently gathering the moss that goes with a glowing history. Settlements at Leetown, Kearneysville, Ranson, Middleway, Summit Point, Halltown, Rippon, Kabletown, Bakerton and Myerstown can all present one or more examples of fine architecture. But, in the main, the great manors are in the country, as might be expected since they were usually the central residential structure of a vast plantation economy.

Since it is the county seat, suppose we start with Charles Town. The historic city was established in 1787 on land belonging to Col. Charles Washington, youngest brother of President George Washington. Col Washington cut the land for the town from his "Happy Retreat" plantation, now located just outside the city limits. Within the new town many imposing residences were built, and most of them remain there today. Some few are lived in, and an even nitely be described as among the smaller number are inhabited by



descendants of the builders. By far the greater portion have been taken over for other purposes however. The Loyal Order of Moose has set up headquarters in a beautiful old residence, while the Veterans of Foreign Wars have done likewise. Many one-time homes are now stores, garages, and whatnot. But their beauty of line is still there for all to see.

A walk through Charles Town is enlightening. Not all of the houses are on the principal streets. Often on narrow ways that seem to be little more than alleys, one runs into a perfect example of early American architecture. In what are now some of the remote neighborhoods stand classic houses in decaying hauteur. The trip off the beaten track is a rewarding one.

If one has to single out one house above others in the Charles Town section, "Happy Retreat" is the obvious selection. Not only was it erected by the man who fathered Charles Town, but it has considerable architectural distinction in its own right. Generally credited with having been started prior to 1780, recent records tend to show that its erection could have begun considerably before that date. The first structure on the site was the west wing, used as a study by Col. Washington. Shortly thereafter, the matching east wing was built, and the two connected by an open passageway, which must have been a difficulty in the winters of that era. The house had not progressed that stage when Col. beyond Washington passed away around the turn of the century. Coming into the hands of Judge Douglas, he built the more imposing central portion in 1837, and gave the place the somewhat lugubrious name of "Mordington," after his home in the foggy isle of Britain. The center portion is pure Greek Revival, and its charming stairway and large rooms are ideal for gracious entertaining. Recently restored to its original splendor and renamed "Happy Retreat," R. J. Funkhouser, this old Washington home is always open to the general public, free of

So much has happened at Harpers Ferry during the courses of two wars and innumerable floods, that it needs no distinguished houses to give it additional fame It has, however, any number of fine old residences, any one of which could stand out as a great house in its own right. Foremost among these is the Harper House This, the home of Robert Harper, who operated ferries across the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers at the historic town, is all but hidden by vines. Set into a steep bank above the street, the Harper House is one of many wings and ells, an imposing structure from all angles. Since there is considerable difference of opinion as to the exact date Robert Harper came to "The Hole," Harpers Ferry's original designation, we cannot state the exact date of the building of his house. Some time prior to 1750 for the first portion seems a fair estimate though. While it is now inhabited, and some minor improvements have been made on it, the house has never come face to face with what is known as restoration. It is a sight well-worth seeing.

More than a hundred years after the coming of Robert Harper to "The Hole," Harpers Ferry received considerable impetus when its scenic and atmospheric advantages were discovered by citydwellers, who made a resort area out of the hills back of the town, and those back of what is now Bolivar. Here they built the mansions of their time, and an old, stone castle still stands west of U. S. Highway 340, a relic of an era of architectural pomposity.

While the railroad still thunders a variety of trains into Harpers Ferry every day, the fear of floods and the ranging powers of the automobile have combined to take the Ferry out of the resort field, and return it to a somnolence, now scheduled to be broken by the coming of the Harpers Ferry National Monument.

Shepherdstown is so filled with attractive old houses that it would be impossible to do justice to each and every one of them. While there are dozens of them, three come to mind immediately—Falling Spring, Rosebrake and Bellevue. All are historic, and it is doubtful as to whether Falling Spring or Rosebrake is the older.

The building dates of both are somewhat obscure, but the little house at the spring on Falling Spring far anet-dates the mansion. Rosebrake has allowed itself to mellow with age, the trees and shrubs have grown up around it, and the foliage has now reached the luxuriant stage .Both of these houses are located along the Shepherdstown - Kearneysville pike.

Bellevue is the most superbly situated of the lot. A massive brick structure, featured by a high columned portico, it stands, flanked by numerous out-buildings, above the Potomac River, in full view of the Maryland shore. It is quite close to one of the fords of the river used by the early settlers,

Standing almost adjacent to Leetown is "Prato Rio." Built about 1775, it was the home of Major General Charles Lee, the controversial figure of the Revolutionary War Battle of Monmouth. It is of native stone, of a story and a half, above an English basement. It originally had no room divisions, but was one large bit of floor space, marked off into sections with chalk by the eccentric owner. It has been recently purchased, and there seems a distinct likelihood that it will soon be restored.

Somewhat northeast of Leetown is "Traveller's Rest." It was in 1772 that Major General Horatio Gates came to the county and made his home there. One of the most eye-

appealing houses in Jefferson, "Traveller's Rest" is of the same general type of architecture as its neighbor, "Prato Rio." It seems to be a pure example of the style, however. It too is constructed of native stone, and rises to one and one-half stories above an English basement. It has dormer windows, and is superbly located on an eminence above a spring, and in full view of the Allegheny Mountains to the west.



THE HOME OF ISRAEL FRIEND—a Quaker. From a map of August 19, 1737 of the Northern Neck of Virginia by Major Gooch, made for the Right Honorable Lord Fairfax, shows that Israel Friend had built a home along the Potomac River of stone, and it is apparent this was later added-to. The house has been occupied by George Washington Jones, and was recently purchased by Mrs. James C. Savory of Kenneth Square, Pa. John W. Wayland, in his "Hopewell Friends" history says this: "Iron-making seems to have been an important industry in which certain "Friends" were engaged at an early date. In 1734, a "Friend" named Israel Friend settled on a large tract of land on the Potomac River about two miles west of Harpers Ferry, and shortly thereafter commenced mining iron ore. It is not known whether he had a furnace at this point, and it may be that he hauled his ore across the river to his Antietam furnaces in Maryland. He died in 1753, and his property passed into other hands, by whom the operations were enlarged and a furnace called "Keep-tryst" erected."



## Homes Of The Washingtons



"HAREWOOD"—First Washington home in Jefferson county, built in 1771 by Colonel Samuel Washington, brother of General George Washington, is famous for its distinguished guests.

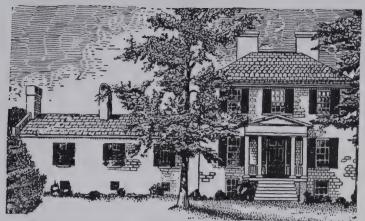


"CLAYMONT COURT"—The home of Bushrod Corbin Washington, built in 1820. A commanding mansion house, said to be the finest in the Shenandoah Valley.

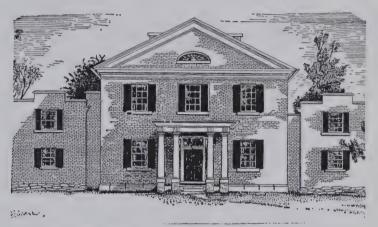


"BLAKELEY"—The home of John Augustine Washington, II, built in 1820. This Washington, with his brother, Bushrod Corbin, of Claymont Court, married the Blackburn sisters.





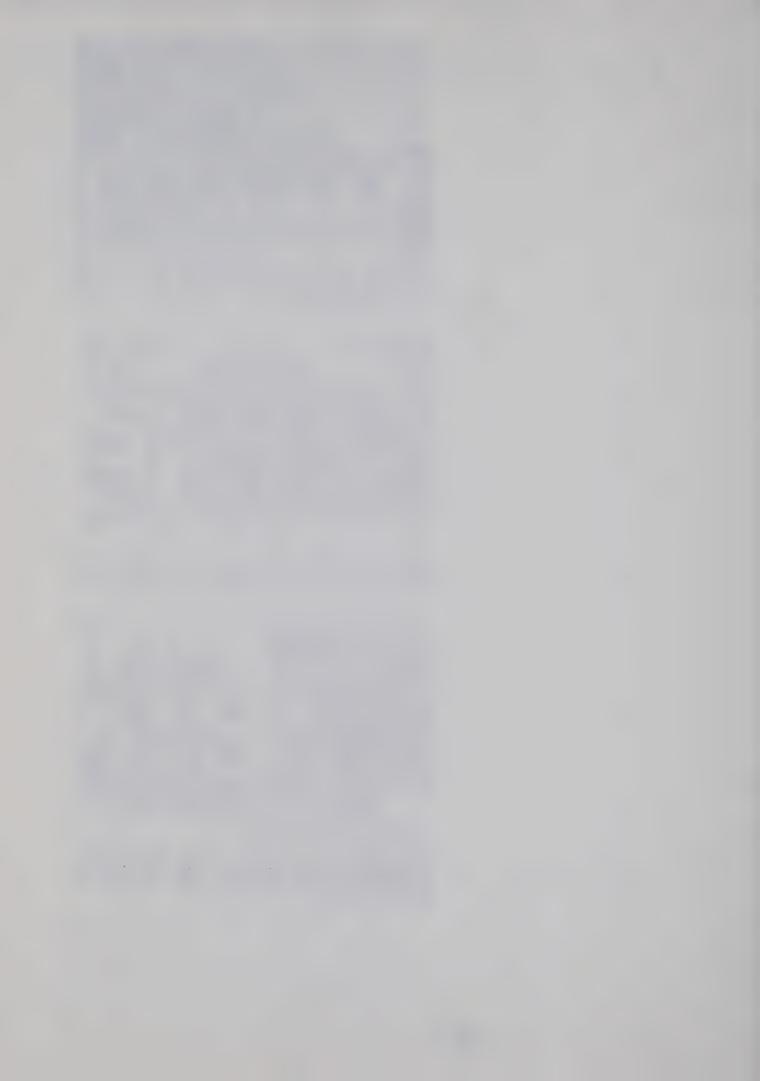
"CEDAR LAWN" — The home of John Thornton Augustine Washington, built in 1825. The owner was the eldest son of Col. Samuel Washington, who built nearby "Harewood."



"HAPPY RETREAT"—The home of Colonel Charles Washington (founder of Charles Town) was built in 1780. General George Washington often visited here.



"BEALLAIR"—The home of Colonel Lewis William Washington, built before 1830. In 1859, John Brown's men held this Washington along with slaves captives at Harpers Ferry.





"LOCUST HILL"—The home of Lucy Washington Packette; built in 1840. She was the great grand-daughter of Col. Samuel Washington, and married John Bainbridge Packette.

"Harewood", the home of Colonel Samuel Washington, has through the years remained in the hands of his descendants, and is now owned by Dr. John Augustine Washington, a resident of Washington, D. C., who has started a carefully planned restoration of the home. "Beallair" is owned by the Robinson Ice & Cold Storage Company, of Ranson. "Happy Retreat," "Claymont Court," "Blakeley," and "Cedar Lawn" have been beautifully restored by R. J. Funkhouser, industrialist and newspaper publisher of Ranson and Charles Town and his home is maintained at "Claymont Court"; his son, Justin Funkhouser, occupies "Blakeley." "Locust Hill" has also been restored by Mr. Funkhouser.



And while speaking of the homes of Jefferson county's generals, it might not be amiss to mention the ell-shaped, one-story stone house of Indian Wars General William Darke, about a mile east of Duffields. It is now owned by the Link

heirs and is located in a fine grove of trees. Due to its somewhat remote situation, it is not as accessible as the homes of the other two generals.

One of the most attractive settlements in the county is Middleway. All along its main thoroughfare there are splendid examples of early architecture. It is the storybook town of typical Scuthern architecture. Middleway is the village city visitors expect to see when they come South. It has a charm that defies description.

To a somewhat lesser extent. fine old homes are to found around Kabletown, Halltown, Rippon, Summit Point and Kearneysville. Of these the last named town seems to have the outstanding example in the home of Miss Effie McIntyre, said to have been built in 1805. Its present beauty is marred considerably by the proximity of the railroad tracks, but even they cannot take away from it a genuine claim to architectural beauty. It is two stories, of stone and brick and has a small classic portico. It is on the right of the highway just as one makes the turn off Route 9 to go to Shepherdstown from Kearneysville.

And so we come to the county, to the homes out from town. The early settlers of Jefferson considered the land lying along the Bullskin as the choice acreage, and they immediately set about acquiring as much of it as possible. Creeks and rivers played an important part in the settlement pattern of the county anyway. Since it was all a part of old Frederick county, Virginia, in the days of the originial settlers, one very carefully maintained boundary was Opequon Creek. The Opequon was the dividing line between the settlers of Anglo-Saxon lineage, who had come up from Tidewater Virginia. and those from the North, principally the Pennsylvania Dutch. The almost imaginary aloofness attributed to Jefferson and Clarke countians today is thought to stem from the original standoffishness maintained by the settlers on the eastern bank of the Opequon.

Since the Bullskin forks, and makes up, in actuality, two streams, let us consider them one at a time. Taking the North Fork first, this branch begins properly at Rock Spring, a part of the Claymont estate, joining the main stream on the Mathias farm, near Kabletown. It is the smaller of the two forks. Van Metres, Hites and others owned land along branch of the Bullskin in the early days, but most of it was eventually acquired by the Washingtons, who seemed to have had keen eyes for good farmland. We can not recall a Washington home, from Wakefield to Locust Hill, built upon a poor site, or surrounded by anything but the most fertile farm-

Much of the Bullskin Run land came to George Washington, who purchased it. He did not receive it as payment for surveying for Lord Fairfax, as is commonly believed. Later, the first President conveyed much of this property to his brothers Samuel and Charles, either by purchase or gift. It finally descended to these brothers' children. grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and now even further in the case of Harewood, owned by Dr. John Washington, a direct descendant of its builder, Samuel Washington.

While all the Washington Homes, as they stand today, are not along the Bullskin, it seems a good time to say most of what we have to say about the Washingtons and their homes. Since five of them have been restored by Mr. R. J. Funkhouser, and the interiors of two of them—Happy Retreat and Claymont Court—placed on display to the general public, the Washington Homes of Jefferson county have received considerable publicity. They have been written about in nationally circulated magazines, metropolitan dailies and are now to be included in a color motion picture, "Daughter of the Stars," due for release in January 1952. In addition to the five restored by Mr. Funkhouser, there are two other distinguished Washington homes in the county. These are Harewood and Beallair.

The oldest of the group is Harewood, said to have been built as early as 1756, despite a state historical marker at its entrance which names 1771 as the building date. The mansion is two stories. above a high basement, and is built of native stone. It is pure Georgian, said by Thomas Tileston Waterman, in his "The Mansions of Virginia," to be "the finest example of Georgian architecture, executed in native stone to be found anywhere in Virginia." It

has a one-story stone wing to the south. There is an attractive stone outbuilding, said to have been Samuel Washington's office. Much of the old boxwood remains, and Samuel Washington, with no less than three of his five wives, lies buried in the yard.

Samuel was George Washington's oldest brother, and the President spent much time at Harewood. The grand old home achieved additional distinction when Louis Philippe, of France, and his two brothers, refugeed there. Dolly Payne Todd married President James Madison in Harewood's panelled drawing room, said to be one of the finest rooms of its type in existence today. The stair hall, with its simple stairway is also notable. Of all the houses in Jefferson county, Harewood is perhaps the finest.

Happy Retreat, near Charles Town, has already been discussed, and next in chronological order are Claymont Court and Blakeley, both built in 1820 by grandnephews of General Washington, Bushrod Corbin was Claymont's builder, while John Augustine, II, built Blakeley. The two brothers mar-ried the Blackburn sisters, and relationships between the "sister- render. houses" were harmonious and frequent. It is a pleasant thought that

a similar relationship seems to exist today as Mr .R. J. Funkhouser makes his home at Claymont, while his only son, Justin, is in residence across the Bullskin at Blakeley.

The largest mansion in the county, Claymont contains 38 rooms in the main center section, and eight rooms in each of the flanking dependencies. It is the center of a large Hereford breeding establishment and its lush meadows and woods extend for hundreds of acres, all surrounded by white paddock fencing. From the two-tiered piazza across the back, the Blue Ridge mountains are in full view, as is Blakeley.

Blakeley, from its own hill, looks back at Claymont, and out to those same Blue Ridge mountains. A brick house of classic beauty, it is typical of what the traveller has come ot expect an ante-bellum Southern manor house to be. Its two-story pillared porch bespeaks all the graciousness of the Old South.

From Blakeley the road winds through forest, orchards and meadowland to Cedar Lawn, built in 1825 by John Thornton Augustine Washington, another great-grandnephew of the President. A square center section of brick rises two stories above an English brick basement, flanked by one long wing, and another shorter one. Its fluted columns and elegant fanlight are features remembered.

Neighbor to Cedar Lawn, but not next in line chronologically, is "Locust Hill." It is not unlike its neighbor, but was built some fifteen years later in 1840 as a wedding present for Lucy Washington upon the occasion of her marriage to a Mr. Packette. It too has a superb view of the Blue Ridge. On its lawn was fought a Civil skirmish, testified to by a battle marker. The bullet-pocked rear marker. wall was left intact when the house was restored—a condition precedent in the deed transferring the property to Mr. Funkhouser's con-

And lastly to "Beallair." Not restored, and the center of a large orchard operation, this is the only Washington home still standing in the county owned by "the other" branch of the family. George Washington's father was twice married, and the owners of the houses recently described were descendants of the second wife. Col. Lewis Washington, of Beallair, came down through the other line.

Beallair's principal section Greek Revival architecture, pure and simple. From the fluted columns of its classic stoop it looks out over the meadowland and a bold spring stream to the omnipresent Blue Ridge in the distance. It is a house of many periods, each new house having been built in front of the last. Its stone outbuildings are also noteworthy.

Col. Lewis Washington was captured by John Brown's men at the time of the raid on Harpers Ferry, and he was held prisoner until his release following Brown's sur-



Following Blakeley and Claymont along the Bullskin—and it seems high time we returned to its banks after wandering with the Washingtons—is Kalarama, building date uncertain. Coming after it is an ancient stone house built shortly after the War Between the States from the stones of a shattered mill. It was owned by a man named Roper, whose descendants still reside in the county.

And the last place along the North Fork, or Little Bullskin, is Bull Wallow. This un-euphoniously named estate is said to be the best farm land on the run, and is now owned and occupied by a Mrs. Lakeland, who was Miss Carrie West It was at Bull Wallow, that the buffaloes gathered, because the grass was "longer and sweeter."

Hence its name.

Leaving the North Fork we go over to the other branch, or Big Bullskin. This fork begins at Head Spring, one of the oldest houses in the county. It is a large spring, shared by Messrs. Bonham and Robinson, who own the properties surrounding it. Only the Bonham holdings are referred to as "Head Spring," however. On an early map the Bonham part was once owned by Edwin A. Riley's heirs, and the other by John A. Thomson.

Digressing again, it is hard to think of the Thomsons and the Summit Point area without having "Hawthorn" come to mind. This is the fine old pre-Civil War mansion located in its apple orchard,

near Summit Point, and not too far from "Head Spring." Still occupied by the Thomson family i is a style unique in this part of th country, but one often found it Tidewater Virginia, from whence it obviously reserved its inspiration. It is two stories with a gam brel roof, and another half story in the dormers. It is still dispensing Southern hospitality with a gracious hand.

And directly across from a big spring on the Charles Town-Summit Point road is the old White House Tavern, built prior to 1740 It was built by the McCormich family, relatives of the distinguished Cyrus. A claim is made that Cyrus McCormick, invento of the reaper, was born here, although his birthplace is more generally credited as being on the McCormick farm near Raphine Virginia. It was once used as a stagecoach stop, and is now calle White House Farm, since its taste ful restoration by the Blakes.

And a little further down th. stream we' come to some more Funkhouser land, once Washing-ton land. This is Rock Hall, said by historians to be the property George Washington originally picked out for his own residence. There is a small, attractive stor house on the property, but n mansion was ever built there a George inherited Mount Vernor before he was able to erect a Rock Hall residence. It is said that th President abandoned his Rock Hall property with genuine regret, bu felt it his duty to take over Mour Vernon upon inheriting it. Little known in contrast to the far flung publicity of the other Washington properties, Rock Hall is well worth the visitor's time.



"HEAD SPRING" Near Summit Point was built in 1747 by Edwin A. Riley, who came from Ireland, and is now owned by I. N. Bonham, former Superintendent of Schools for Jefferson county. The land is a part of the Fairfax Grant and was surveyed by George Washington; the home has been in possession of the family continuously. The source—or head spring—of Big Bullskin Run is on this land. The Rileys and Thomson were big land owners in this section.

The old stone house on the long-ago Haines farm, along Wheatland Road, another notable residence on the shores of the Big Bullskin is owned by James R. Mason and has been named "Fairfax Gran Stock Farm." Feagan's Mill, nearby once supplied the area with much of its material needs.

The lower reaches of the Big Bullskin contain many fine old homes, the most noteworthy o which is probably one known as the old Higginbotham place.

We have endeavored to bring you the old houses of Jefferson if a somewhat orderly pattern. We went first to the large settlements then to the small, then we stuck to the Washington family, and finally traced both forks of Bulskin Run. However, the ganglifare still unhooked and we have not yet come to many beautiful houses, which can not be catalogued into any particular group. We shall, of course, not discuss all of these by any means. There are, however, a few which seem to warrant mention here.

On Charles Town's Liberty Street is the Tiffin house, from which sprang a governor of Ohio. Nearby are the Sunrise Tavern, the old Stephenson Seminary and the Crane House. There is "The Homestead," the old Ranson home, now occupied as a club house by the Ranson Helpers Club.

Going towards Halltown we come to Rion Hall, Dr. Bonney Youngblood's rejuvenated residence. It was built about 1836 by William Lucas, and is a notable example of the architecture of the period.

Vying with Harewood and Claymont for the title of "the county's finest" is Piedmont, the Briscoe home on the Middleway Road.

Situated in a grove of splendid trees above a spring stream, Piedment is a two story red brick house, whose principal portion was built in 1760. An earlier wing, however, dates back to 17.66. It was originally a Worthington home and its interior is particularly lovely. Original French sceni wallpaper still hangs in one of it, nain reception rooms on the first door. Marred somewhat by the proximity of railroad tracks, Piedmont is nevertheless one of the most attractive homes in the county. It has architectural "it."

Neighbor to Piedmont is Altona, century-old home of the Davenport family. Now occupied by Mr and Mrs. Leeds Riely, and Mrs Riely's son, Henry Davenport, Altona is a successful farming operation, scarcely a stone's throw from Charles Town's city limits.

Meg-Willie and Barleywood are interesting homes on what was once the Harewood estate.

Claremont Hall, near Halltown, is an interesting relic. It was once the home of Major John Peter And the Drybridge Farmhouse, home of the Rissler family, is a treasure trove for the antiquarian; its building date is 1828.



"PIEDMONT" - The original home of Robert Worthington, a Quaker, who in 1730 acquired a tract of 3,000 acres The early from the Crown. Worthington building (said to be 1736) was called "Quarry Banks" and is the stone and log kitchen wing of present Piedmont .The Worthingtons, Washingtons and Throckmortons built the Chapel of the Church of England — St. George's Chapel—now in ruins on the Piedmont property. James Nourse was the next owner. In 1780, Dr. John Briscoe bought the place and built the brick part. Mary, daughter of General William Darke, married first Thomas Rutherford, and after his death married a Mr. Manning. Mary Darke Rutherford's daughter, Sarah deMontargis Rutherford married Dr. John Briscoe. On the walls of one of the rooms is the original French paper brought here from Paris. Piedmont is owned and occupied by the Misses Louise and Daisy Briscoe.



In the Beaulah neighborhood is the Ariss House, pictured in Waterman's book as "Locust Hill," although it is not to be confused with the "Locust Hill," of Lucy Washington Packette, previously mentioned. It is a home worth seeing, however.

The Old Stone House, on the Shepherd Grade, Level Green, the ancient Walper's Cross - Roads Tavern, Elmwood, the manse of the now departed Presbyterian Church on the Berryville pike, the house on the Chapline Farm, near Shepherdstown, Maple Shade, Little Elmington, Western View, The Bower and an old Ralph Wormeley cottage near Kabletown will be

worth the tourist's time. These are but a few of the many, but in their various types and periods they illustrate the plethora of old houses to be found in Jefferson county.

Probably a throwback to their Tidewater ancestors, many early Jeffersonians wanted their homes along the banks of the Shenandoah. Notable among these are "The Rocks," part of the Ralpl Wormeley tract, and "Shannor Hill," a massive house set high above the river. George Washington Hammond built "Shannor Hill" in 1839 on land acquired from Fernando Fairfax.

Before bringing this to a closichere are four more homes that should definitely receive mention. These are the old Vestal house at Keyes Ferry, "Cold Spring," the original Stephenson home on the Marshall Burns farm, and a "mystery home," located between Summit Point and Brucetown, Virginia.

The house at Keyes Ferry was built in 1748 by a J. Vestal, according to a stone embedded in the house. It was erected on land bought from early settler Jost Hite in 1747. There is an old graveyard on the place, where some of the Vestals are said to be buried

Vestals are said to be buried.

Built in 1797, the great sten: house at "Cold Spring" is one of the county's finer stone residence. It is a Lucas home, and has intimate association with the Genera Darke family, who intermarried with the Lucases. It has recently been acquired by a descendant of the builder, who has done much to bring it back to its original cendition.

A splendid example of the classiarchitecture of the early nineteenth century is the Stephensor house on the Burns farm. However, the little stone dependencis said to be much older, and is generally believed to have been the original residence of Richard Stephenson, father of Hugh, who was an important figure in Jefferson county history.

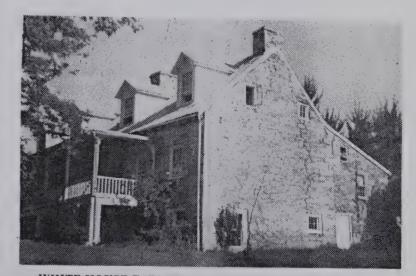
And for the very last we have saved a house about which little or nothing, is known either by the the writer or the owners. It is in Jefferson county, but so located that it is necessary to approach if from Clarke county, Virginia. It is on the Summit Point-Brucetown road, about a mile on the east side of the Opequon. It is north of the main road, and is in West Virginia. However, the entrance and the first half mile of roadway are in Virginia. About a hundred yards from the house itself one crosses the state line, and finds himself in in Jefferson county.

To look at it, the house war probably built around 1850, and it of two stories in faded red brick It is placed on probably the choicest location in the county, from which it commands extensive views of both the Blue Ridge and Allegheny ranges, which bound the Valley of the Shenandoah. No one seems to know who built this house with its spacious rooms and enviable setting. No one knows its name. No one seems to care, which is even more strange. We often wonder how many people know it is in Jefferson county since its gateway is in Clarke, as is its post office address at the hamlet of Wadesville, Virginia. But it is a house of first rank, and deserves a better fate than ignominy. It is to be hoped that someone will remember enough to get the historians and chroniclers to digging

As we opined earlier this is not meant to be a reference work for scholars of Jefferson county antiquities, but is instead a cursory glance at an era of beautiful design, made doubly beautiful by contrast with the cinder block of today.



'ALTONA"-In 1793, Abram Davenport bought of Col. Charles Washington a large tract of land one mile west of Charles Town. There was a small house on the place at the time, which is the middle part of the present residence; his son, Braxton Davenport became the next owner, and died in December 1862. Henry Bedinger Davenport was next in line, a Lieutenant of the Jefferson Guards of the Civil War in Captain Rowan's Company from Charles Town, and his son, Henry Bedinger Davenport, Jr., now a resident of Charleston, W. Va.



WHITE HOUSE FARM (once Whitehouse Tavern) near Summit Point at the big spring on Big Bullskin Run, was built by Dr. John McCormick, a native of Ireland, in 1740. Later a man named Whitehouse used the premises as a tavern—known as White House Tavern. Not too far away was the "White House" of Dr. Lee Griggs, and early practitioner in the Summit Point and Middleway section. Dr. Griggs was a great grandson of Dr. John McCormick. Dr. Griggs practiced medicine in Shepherdstown and last built a home and lived in Charles Town. The Griggs home was later known as the Timberlake House—on the present site of Charles Town High School.

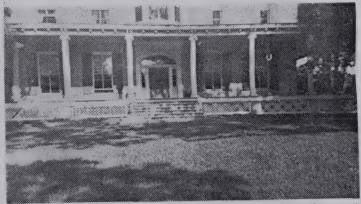




"THE ROCKS"—Late home of Miss Ann Lewis, in possession of the deed to Ralph Wormley from Lord Fairfax for several thousand acres of land, dated 1729. Mr. Wormley built a hunting lodge and a one-story room for a kitchen, now at the back of the present structure. December 30, 1789 Battaile Muse bought The Rocks from James and Arianna Wormley. Mrs. Margaret Muse, widow of Battaile Muse, sold The Rocks to Dr. John H. Lewis, father of Miss Ann Lewis, November 21, 1813. The Lewis' owned The Rocks until its sale to Dr. Roy A. Barlow in April 1940. Commodore John H. Magruder purchased The Rocks from Dr. Barlow, and has now completed extensive restoration of the premises.



"MAPLE SHADE" on Shepherd's Grade was built on lands first owned by Col. Josiah Swearingen, one of the early settlers, who acquired his acreage in 1750 from Lord Fairfax. Swearingen built a substantial stone dwelling before 1788, and sold the property to Captain Abram Shepherd, who willed it to his son, Henry Shepherd, who added a large wing to the original house in 1819, and at his death the property went to Henry Shepherd, II.



"THE BOWER" was built by General Adam Stephen, the great friend of General Washington. In 1763, Stephen bought 1,100 acres extending from Opequon Creek beyond Leetown, toward Bardane. This was the home of Captain Alexander Spottswood Dandridge, grandson of Governor Spottswood, and of Ann Stephen Dandridge, daughter of General Stephen. The secluded and romantic spot is surrounded by a grove of virgin oak trees. The Bower is now the summer home of the Rt. Rev. Edmund P. Dandridge, Bishop of the Tennessee Diocese of the Episcopal Church.





FAIRFAX GRANT STOCK FARM was built before 1796 by Nathaniel Haines, a Quaker, and is another notable residence along Big Bullskin Run, now owned by James R. Mason. Located on the Wheatland Road, it is nearby to Feagan's Mill, still in operation, and originally Haines' Mill.



"RION HALL" was built about 1836 by William Lucas, on land formerly owned by William Hall, John Rion and William Burnett. The property is now owned by Dr. Bonney Youngblood.



## Rumsey And His Steamboat

(Note: The reader of this story must bear in mind that it was | was after this that Mr. Skiles marwritten and published between 1880 and 1885. It appeared as below in The Greenbrier Independent, published at Lewisburg, W. Va. (between dates above). The author Marcellus W. Zimmerman, who ran a series of historical events and comments, and was a compositor on that newspaper for more than sixty years. The reference to James Rumsey Skiles and his family is interesting, and the connection of events in Kentucky are readable. However, the story's reference to James Rumsey and his steamboat at Shepherdstown, Jefferson county, could contain a new angle for local historians. It is reproduced

#### By M. W. ZIMMERMAN

Many of these facts, through the- danced the war-dance and heaped kindness of a friend, have been recently gleaned from James R.

Skiles personally.

His father was Jacob Skiles, who merchandised in the Clowney Spotts house in Lewisburg (Greenbrier County, W. Va.) about 1800, and his mother (Susanna Fraley) was the widowed daughter of James Rumsey, who was the first man to propose steam as a substitute for wind in propelling vessels on in this sketch. The material and workmanship of his steamer (built on the Potomac in 1784) were those of the tools of a common blacksmith shop, and the boiler flues were made of fun barrels. His idea was afterward successfully carried out by Fulton by the application of side wheels.

Jacob Skiles and Mrs. Fraley were married in Greenbrier September 30, 1799, and emigrated to Kentucky in 1803. Jacob also induced his father, Henry Skiles of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, to emigrate and settle with him near Bowling Green in Warren county, to which point he was soon followed by his brothers, William and Henry, and two of his sisters, Mrs. Viney and Mrs. Hannah. Before emigrating Henry was married, January 26, 1802, to Elizabeth Hamilton of Greenbrier. The remaining two sisters, Mary and Esther, lived and died in our Green-brier region—the former, August 22, 1805, marrying Col. Thomas 22, 1805, marrying Col. Thomas Beard of Pocahontas, and the latter, June 30, 1795, marrying Chas. Arbuckle of Lewisburg.

Henry Skiles, Jacob's father, was very dissipated, and would accumulate a "noggin" of silver dollars, then gamble and drink until thε last dollar had disappeared. One day, when the "noggin" was full, his wife gave the money to Jacob and started him on a peddling tour through the wilds of western Virginia and Ohio. He had started down the Ohio river and was captured by the Indians. One of his comrades, Col. John May, was killed and himself wounded, and his goods destroyed by the Indians Mr. Flynn, another passenger of his boat, was burned at the stake, around which the Indians, having dressed themselves in the stockings found among the goods.

burning coals upon the head and naked body of their victim. The goods were also burned with Mr. Flynn's body. Two girls under Flynn's charge were afterwards ransomed by a party of French traders. Mr. Skiles, after unheardof suffering from his wounds, was tied on a horseback and taken by the Indians to the Miama of the Lakes, and there backed, preparatory, as was the Irdian custom, to be burnt at the stake. He feigned sickness and got the ordeal postponed until by the connivance of a kind-hearted old squaw, he made his escape. The Indians, leaving Mr. Skiles in charge of the squaw, and securely bound, started on a four days' hunt, as indicated to the captive by the uplifted fingers of his guard. Wearied with the toothache, which was relieved by Mr. Skiles, she untied the thongs and urged him to flee toward the Ohio mr. Skiles narrowly escaped recapture by creeping under the puncheon floor of a friendly Indian's cabin on the banks of the

Constructing a ratt he crossed the river, and escaped to the settlements. Having no money he opened a school at some point in the wildernoss, and used as a schoolroom the basement story of a house with the window opening against the hillside. Entering this room one morning Mr. Skiles was attacked by a panther, which had been attracted to the s-ot by the fragments thrown from the children's dinner-baskets. Unawares the animal sprang upon Mr. Skiles, when a fearful struggle ensued. Fastening its fangs and claws in his shoulder and neck the shoulder-blade was crushed and the flesh terribly lacerated, which rendered the arm forever useless. The "varmit" was finally dragged around to the stove and its throat cut with the pen-knife which Mr. Skiles had left lying open after shaving light-wood to kindle the fire. It

ried in Greenbrier, merchandised in Lewisburg, and then moved to Kentucky and merchandised. He was of that singular mind that knew at a glance what to buy and how it could be sold at a profit.

Jacob Skiles' family consisted of three sons and one daughter-William H., Charles M., Susan K., who became the wife of Sam'l Mc-

Dowell, and

JAMES RUMSEY SKILES,

who was born in Lewisburg in the year 1800. He recevied the rudiments of education from a family tutor, who was a "United Irish-man" exiled from his native country for his political opinions. From this man James R. Skiles not only gained a thorough knowledge of the English language, but imbibed an enthusiastic love of liberty and a thorough hatred of oppression. He never looked into an English grammar, or into the first rules of arithmetic, algebra or mensuration, but wrote them down at the dictation of his teacher. And he learned to read by spelling over the news in the National Intelligencer, the journal of that day Under this means of instruction he grew up to be a Jeffersonian Democrat. It was about this time, it seems, that he visited Col. Chas. Arbuckle and attended for a short time at the Lewisburg Academy. While at Cumberland College in 1816 he was called home by the death of his father, but renewed his Collegiate studies after a short time. Quitting the College he commenced reading law in Nashville, Tenn., which was also discontinued in a short time, the pursuit not proving congenial to him.

March 24, 1820, he married Eliza A. Bell, a niece of Mrs. Judge Mc-Nary of Nashville, and returned to Kentucky to farm which was no doubt his true mission. Opening a farm on the paternal acres, and gathering the first crop, there was found no market for anything he had raised. The currency of the country was worthless paper, which had banished metal from circulation. This must be remedied or enterprise and industry must die.

"With all the ardor and industry, but without the well-balanced judgment of his father, he offered for the Legislature and after a stormy canvass was elected by a small majority. He served in the House of Representatives some three sessions, at the end of which. the Constitution and laws of the State being restored, he left the Legislature to which he had been elected without opposition the last year. The old banks had been wound up and Kentucky was preparing to establish a financial system as honorable to the State as the old was disgraceful.



But Warren and adjoining counties still had no outlet to market, and hence no sale for their products. The hope of a great railroad through Kentucky, which Jas. R Skiles proposed while in the Legislature, being out of the ouestion, some other measure must be taken to open up an outlet. Green and Barren rivers seemed to be the only hope. Most of its friends gave up the idea of anything in this quarter, but Mr. Skiles, who was a civil engineer by intuition, thought ifferently. Making himself conversant by reflection with artificial lifts from lower to higher levels of water, he persisted until the two rivers were made navigable for boats of three hundred tons burthen. It is useless to say how he was commelled to become a boat owner and a merchant, or give up his favorite project. Resolving in the beginning to trust his scheme only in the hands of experienced engineers and contractors, through the advice and agency of Gen. Abner Lacock he procured the best corps of such men to be found in New York or Pennsylvania. Serious embarrassments were offered to the work by the tardiness of the Legislature in making appropriations, but these difficulties were mot promptly by the use of his own credit until the gap in appropriations was tided over. By these helps the work progressed and the great purpose of opening up the different pools at the same time was effected. To connect the town of Bowling Green with the river a railroad, undertaken by four persons, eventually fell entirely upon This, together with the loss by fire of two steam mills and a yard full of lumber, cost him about \$40,000. He built large warehouses at each end of this railroad. He also took stock in every road and church in the town or county, and built in 1824 or 5 the first flouring mill in his county.

After the tremendous strain of six years' labor by day and thought by night-being president of the Green river board, a member of the State Board of Internal Improvement, president of the branch Bank of Kentucky at Bowling Green, and owner of a steamboat and two large stores-it is not surprising that his health in a great measure gave way. The railroad, rendered useless through neglect, was re-opened by Mr. Skiles. But just as his business, after a temporary depression, was assuming a favorable aspect, he awoke to the fearful fact that the lives of his children must be saved by residing in a milder climate. October 3, 1849, he started for Texas or California, and settled in the San Antonio Valley of Texas."

Jas. R. Skiles, if still alive at this writing, is a sincere man, of persuasive manners, and always possessed the power of attaching to himself friends whose friendship never faltered. He has ever been impatient of circumlocution in controversy or debate. Once, having risen to speak, the gratifying remark was made, "Now Mr. Skiles will say exactly what he believes."

He was ardently devoted to the Southern cause, and the last of his means fell with Confederate currency. Although his worldly riches have fled, "his investments of love for children, music and flowers—deposited in the bank of memory, which never stops payment—still honors his drafts without stint."

Besides four children lost in infancy James R. Skiles also lost his eldest son, James R. Skiles, Jr., and two eldest daughters before leaving Kentucky. The next son, George Waldemar, was killed by the accidental discharge of his own rifle on getting out of a carriage Texas. His next son, at Goliad. Wm. Russell, joined at Monterey, Mexico, Van Dorn's expedition to take the Yankee Navy in Matagorda Bay and died of consumption on the Rio Grande, while trying to get back to Monterey. His remaining son, Charles H., lives at the homestead at the great falls of the San Antonio river. His adopted daughter, Mrs. Mary Whetstone. also lives near these falls. And his daughter, Mrs. Fannie C. Beverly, lives at Dodge City, Kansas.

James Rumsey Skiles' present home is in Texas, and for the benefits derived from his actions in the early growth of parts of Kentucky, and the expenditure of his large fortune, the affections of that people flow out to him in a constant stream. And as the gratitude of a civilized world is due to his maternal grandfather, this sketch would be improperly closed without giving a condensed history of Mr. Rumsey's important invention.

invention. "'Who invented the steamboat?" is a question which has occasioned much controversy - an achievement of which nations, as well as individuals have been covetous. Several of the early experimenters in steam appear to have conceived of the idea. The first account we have on the subject states that Blasco de Garay, a sea-captain, exhibited with success, in the harbor of Barcelona, on the 17th of June, 1543, an engine by which ships and vessels of the largest size could be propelled, even in a calm without the aid of oars or sails The experiment was made on a ship of 209 tens, and the treasurer Ravago, an enemy to the project. said it would move two leagues in three hours. But we are not inclined to commence the history of the invention of the steamhoat so far back as 1543. For, circumstantial as the account is, it seems to have been written since the days of Fulton. This, it must be remembered, is stated to have occurred fifty-four years pre-ious to the birth of the Marquis of Worcester, to whom history assigns the credit of being the original inventor of the steam-engine. When we consider how slow is the progress of invention - how it took several generations of ingenious men. each of whom successively contributed his share in improving upon the first crude conception of Worcester ere it could be successfully applied -how rude the state of mechanic arts three centuries since, and the difficulties of perfecting so compli-

cated a work of mechanism as the steam-engine—it seems incredible that one mind alone should have overcome them all, and, at a single leap, done that which has taken the successive light and talent of generations of men, and all the mechanical skill and knowledge of the 19th Century to consummate.

In 1737 letters patent were granted by George II of England to Jonathan Hulls for a newlyinvented machine for carrying vessels out of or into any harbor, port or river, against wind and tide, or in a calm; but there is no evidence that Hulls ever applied his conceptions to practice. Previous to the great and successful experiment of Fulton in 1807, several attempts were made in this country and in Europe to navigate vessels by steam. The first in order of time was made by James Rumsey; the second was John Fitch, who, in 1789, succeeded in propelling his steamboat by paddles, at the rate of eight miles an hour, on the Delaware. In his autobiography he says, 'I know of nothing so perplexing and vexatious to a man of feeling as a turbulent wife and steamboat building. I experienced the former, and quit in season; and had I been in my right senses, I should undoubtedly have treated the latter in the same manner. But i for one man to be teased with both, he must be looked upon as the most unfortunate man of this world.' Fitch died at Bardstown, Kentucky, about the year 1796, and how melancholy is the sentiment found in his journal: 'The day will come when some more powerful man will get fame and riches from my invention; but nobody will believe that poor John Fitch can do anything worthy of attention.'
As early as 1783 both Rumsey

and Fitch had exhibited models to Gen. Washington. Shortly after the experiment of Fitch a Mr. Symington succeeded in propelling a steamboat on the Clyde, in Scotland. John Stevens, of Hoboken, commenced his experiments in 1797. With various forms of vessels and machinery he impelled boats at the rate of five or six miles an hour. In the same year, 1797. Chancellor Livingston built a steamboat on the Hudson, and applied to the Legislature of New York for an exclusive privilege. He afterwards associated with Stevens, who, with the assistance of his son, succeeded in 1807, only a few days later than Mr. Fulton's convincing experiment, in propelling a steamboat at the rate of three miles an hour. Another of these indefatigable experimenters in navigation by steam was Oliver Evans, of Philadelphia, the inventor of the high-pressure steam engine, the only one which can be successfully applied to locomotives In the year 1804 Evans built a steamboat to ply on the Mississippi. The boat not being ready the engine was placed temporarily ir a saw-mill. The mill and engine were both burnt by incendiaries Thus were the projectors ruined and a laudable attempt to establish steam-boats on the Mississippi, three or four years before Fulton's experiment, defeated.



James Rumsey, who is believed to be the first person that ever succeeded in propelling a boat by steam, was a native of Maryland When a young man he removed to Shepherdstown, W. Va., where he devoted much of his time to mechanics.

In September, 1781, he was employed by the Potomac company, of which Washington was a member. to improve navigation of the Potomac River. In the summer of the year 1783, he directed his attention to the subject of steamboats; and in the autumn of 1784 succeeded in a private way, but very imperfect experiment, in order to test some of the principles of his invention. In the October assion of that year he obtained the bassage of an act from the Virginin Assembly, guaranteeing to him the exclusive use of his invenion in navigating the waters of that State for the space of ton years from date. In January, 1785. he obtained a patent from the General Assembly of Maryland for navigating their waters. Through the whole of this year he was engaged in working at his boat, but was not ready for a public trial until 1786, the year following. In this experiment he was eminently successful. He succeeded in propelling his boat by steam alone at Shepherdstown, against the current of the Potomac, at the rate of four or five miles an hour.

Washington, it is said, was among the passengers. In his correspondence is a letter to Rumsey dated anterior to the public experiment in 1786, advising him to

hasten the construction of his boat so as to prevent being forestalled by another individual, and to convince the public of its practicability. Also in another letter dated Mount Vernon, March 15. Washington says, in alluding to Rumsey's boat: 'If a model of a thing, in miniature, is a just representation of a greater object in practice, there is no doubt of the utility of the invention. A view of his model with the explanation, removed the principal doubt I ever had of the practicability of propelling against a stream by the aid of mechanical power; but as he wanted to avail himself of my introduction of it to the public attention, I chose, previously, to see the actual performance of the model in a descending stream before I passed my certificate, and having done so, all my doubts are satisfied.

He was supplied with funds for the undertaking by his brother-in-law, Charles Morrow, which proved the ruin of the latter. The boat was built upon the banks of the Potomac, about half a mile above Shepherdstown. She was called by the towns-people, not the steamboat, but 'the flying boat;' and Mr. Rumsey himself received from the same source, the appellation of 'crazy Rumsey.' There is a place upon the banks of the Potomac formerly called 'Rumsey's Walk,' where Rumsey was often seen for hours walking to and fro in deep meditation upon his favorite project.

His boat was about fifty feet in length and was propelled by a pump worked by a steam-engine, which forced a quantity of water up through the keel; the valve was then shut by the return of the stroke, which at the same time forced the water through a charnel or pipe, a few inches square. lying above the parallel to the kelson, out at the stern under the rudder, which had a less depth than usual to permit the exit of the water. The impetus of this water forced through the square channel against the exterior water acted as an impelling power upon the vessel. The reaction of the effuent water propelled her at the rate above mentioned, when loaded with three tons in addition to the weight of her engine, or about a third of a ton. The boile: was quite a curiosity, holding no more than five gallons of water, and needing only a pint at a time. The whole machinery did not occupy a space greater than that required for four barrels of flour -The fuel consumed was not more than from four to six bushels of coal in twelve hours. — Rumsey's other project was to apply the power of a steamengine to long poles, which were to reach the bottom of the river and by that means to push a boat against a rapid current. After the experiment above alluded to, Rumsey being under the strong conviction that skillful workmen and perfect machinery were alone wanting to the most perfect success, and sensible that such could be procured in America, resolved to go to England and there he resumed with untiring energy his great undertaking.

He proceeded to procure patents the British government for steam navigation; these patents bear date in the beginning of the year 1788. Several of his inventions, in one modified form or another, are now in general use; as, for instance, the cylindrical boilers, in the presentation of fire surface and capacity for holding highly rarefied steam is described both single and combined, in his specifications and is identical in principle with the tub-boiler which he used in his Potomac experiment.

He struggled on undismayed, and constructed a boat of about one hundred tons burden, and pushed forward his machinery so near to the point of completion as to be able to indicate a day not very distant for a public exhibition. Death, however, put an end to his career, in Liverpool, at a most flattering point in his life, and under circumstances of the most touching character. Rumsey had consented to give a public exposition of this project for the purpose of enlisting the patronage of the public in his behalf. The evening came, and, to his astonishment, the hall was filled to overflowing with the learning and fashion and beauty of Liverpool.—He was overwhelmed at this unlooked-for token of interest; and he seems to have been so conquered by his feelings as to be unequal to the occasion. He saw that his most ardent hopes were upon the eve of accomplishment, and that the help-

ing hand of power was to be extended to him in his penury and carry through in triumph the cherished object of his life. He arose to begin his lecture—his agitation was observed by a gentleman, who handed him a glass of water—he returned his thanks in a few incoherent sentences, sank in his chair, and never spake more. He was seized with apoplectic fit, and died within two days after.

Thus died poor Rumsey, another of those martyrs of civilization of which those benefactors of the human race who have labored in the department of mechanical invention—whose works constitute the peculiar glory of our time—form so long a roll. Rumsey had obtained the patronage of some enterprising individuals, and the boat he constructed was set in motion after his death, on the Thames, in 1793.

A sharp controversy at one time existed between Rumsey and Fitch as to the originality of their respective inventions. Neither, however can claim originality as to the idea, as has been shown. The Hon. Robert Wickliffe of Kentucky says that about the year 1780 Fitch accidentally met Rumsey in Winchester, and imparted to him his idea of propelling boats by steam. Admitting the fact, it proves nothing more than that from Fitch, Rumsey derived the bare idea; the principles of their machinery were different. Without deciding upon the respective merits of either, both certainly claim admiration for their perseverance, as well as sympathy for their misfortunes.





# Early Medicine & Practitioners

By COL. R. L. BATES

A knowledge of medicine, in the early part of the 19th Cenwas generally acquired through apprenticeship to some elderly doctor. Sometimes the doctor adopted this as a way of naming his successor. An agreement as to terms would be reached-private relationship, often a contractural relationship, between the two parties. The old doctor would permit the prospective physician to accompany him when calling on patients, he would explain the formulas and ingredients of prescriptions, and ingredients of prescriptions, and under his direction would see that the young doctor had adopted an approved form of medical practice. When the young doctor was deemed proficient the older practitioner would declare the younger competent to engage in the practice of medicine. How to broken bones, how to bring children into the world and what to do in case of a fever were the chief requisites of a medical education.

A medical man in those days was primarily a man of common sense. The science of diagnosis had not advanced much over the times of Hippocrates and Galen, and many of the drugs used had their origin in antiquity. As there were few medical treatises one dector communicated to another the experience gained in a lifetime. A young doctor could vary the accepted practice according to caprice. The confidence he inspired in his patients, his reputation as a successful practitioner. and his geniality and demeanor counted for much. His temperament was a matter of considerable importance. The chief dif-ference between him and his client was that he could view illness and distress in an unimpassioned way and could give cheering advice not only to the patient but to the distraught family. Quite often if the patient recovered the cure was ascribed to the miraculous intervention of the doctor. If the patient died it was the "Lord's will." In this day there were good doctors and bad doctors; there were conservative doctors and daring doctors; and there were honest doctors and quack doctors. There were doctors who liked nothing better than a phlebotomy or amoutation - and there were doctors who feared all forms of surgery. Medicine and the ministry were regarded as twin professions - the former took care of the body, the latter took care of the soul: and the doctor was generally a pillar in the church.

The doctor of the early 19th Century was not unlike the circuit rider of early Methodism. His practice extended over a wide territory. His saddle-bags were filled with all sorts of medicines and these he dispensed according to his good judgment. However, it must not be overlooked that apothecary shops were in operation at this time and drugs were often administered on prescription much as they are today. Varle, in his book of 1810, noted that Smithfield (now Middleway) had such a shop.

The doctor lives at his home, whether that be country or town, and waited for calls. At intervals (generally infrequent) a horseman came galloping in to inform him that his services were needed at once, for the medical man was summoned, generally, only as a matter of last resort when the home remedies had been tried and found to be ineffective. The gravity of the situation would be ascertained from the person who had gone for the doctor and the physician's haste would be determined by the report of the patient's symtoms. Often the doctor would go galloping off ahead of the mes-senger. Long intervals of time would sometimes elapse between the summons and the doctor's arrival and members of the distracted family would watch and listen breathlessly for his approach.

A story was related of a doctor of this time who had been long delayed in seeing a patient. Darkness, which was intensified by an approaching thunder shower, had fallen. In following a long trail through the woods he relied upon flashes of distant lightning to keep on his course. The storm at length broke but the doctor continued on his way. Another flash, and his horse began to rear and plunge in fright and refused to go farther. In another flash he saw what had so terrified the animal. Unmistakably it was a coffin upright against a tree. With difficulty he urged on his horse until he came close upon the object. All the while his horse kept rearing and plunging. The lid of the coffin opened and a human

of the coffin opened and a human form stepped out.
"Who is there?" shouted the

doctor.

"Ah, it is you," said the ghostly igure.

"What are you doing there?" insisted the doctor.

"The patient you are now going to see, died some hours ago," said a voice which he now recognized. "I was sent for a coffin. The storm came up. I couldn't see where I was going or what I was doing, so I set the coffin up against this tree and got in it out of the rain."

Most diagnoses of the day were based on pulse rate; body temperature which was ascertained by feeling the patient's hand, cheek and neck; and the appearance of the tongue. Then the patient would give a subjective report on how he felt. Inquiry would next be made as to action of bowel and kidneys The complexion would be noted. Medicines would be taken from the saddle bags and administered with assurance to the patient that he would recover or feel much improved as a result of the administration. The experience gained, even in an apprenticeship, often disclosed when death was imminent and the family was cautioned 'to have faith in the Lord.'

The family doctor was a confidant of heads of households. He listened to troubles of all kinds. He knew the difficulties, the deprivations and the hardships of his clients. He was a confessor of willing laymen, and the advice he gave was of as much economic and social importance as it was medical. Parents often named a child for him, and he not infrequently acted as god-father for others, the parents' expression of appreciation for all of the services rendered.

Dr. John Lee was a medical practitioner of Smithfield (now Middleway) in its early days, and the name of Dr. James Macoughtry may also be noted.

The records of Dr. Lee Griggs give us our clearest picture of the practice of medicine of the early part of the 19th Century. He lived near what is now Summit Point. on the Summit Point-Middleway road (now the S. C. Glassford home).

Until 1817 he practiced his profession in Smithfield when he moved to Shepherdstown and eventually to Charles Town. In the latter place he had built for himself a large brick house. He married Miss Eliza Frame of Jefferson Co. He was reputed to have been a successful practitioner in spite of his high temper. When a small child once fell over a chair he was said to have demolished the chair. When a carpenter once failed to smooth lumber properly he took an axe and so gashed the wood that it was rendered unfit for use in the building.



The progenitor of Dr. Lee Griggs' family came from England or Wales in the early part of the 18th Century and settled in Tidewater. Virginia. Dr. Griggs' father, Thomas Griggs—the son of Lee Griggs and Elizabeth Skerlock Griggs—was born Oct. 11, 1746, in Lancaster Co., Va. About 1770. Thomas Griggs moved to the Shenandoah Valley, as did many other Tidewater residents of the time. It will be recalled that opportunity, in those days, pointed to the north rather than to the west. He settled near Summit Point where he built a "white house."

The apprenticeship system of acquiring knowledge of medicine was being regarded with dissatisfaction in the latter part of the 18th Century. Under it a physician could develop fads. He would often ascribe properties to drugs that did not exist in fact. There was little uniformity in diagnosis and less in treatment. In response to a felt need on the part of the public, and the doctors themselves, medical colleges were being established Ambitious young men, of this region, were beginning their studies at the University of Pennsylvania and the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Among such students was Dr. Lee Griggs who was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1814

Dr. Griggs' records indicated clearly what were regarded as high standards of his day, and his notes, furthermore show that he could be classed as a conservative practi-

⁺i^ner.

Infections were exceedingly difficult to treat, their cayse not being understood. This was the day when skin injuries were supposed to suppurate, "a boil was worth \$5.00" to its possessor. It appears from his record that Dr. Griggs was wary of lancet and scalpel as he made but few references to probing or tampering with wounds. There is no evidence of his having

bled a patient or practiced his profession in the capacity of a surgeon except for the extraction of teeth. Such dental surgery was a considerable part of his practice. In 1817, he began vaccinating against smallpox. This was but mineteen years after Dr. Jenner had published the results of his famous investigation. During the first half of the year, 1818, he vaccinated 104 persons.

His notes and accounts reveal a solicitude of masters for their negro slaves. This solicitude may have been prompted, in part, by a desire to protect valuable property. However, it would seem from the doctor's records that the negro received medical attention no less than did the members of the mas-

ter's family.

The doctor had fifty-nine drugs in his pharmacopeia. In the order named the drugs most frequently prescribed were calomel, jalap powders, blister, Dovers powders, antibilious powders, cathartic, anodyne and senna leaves. In 23% of all cases calomel was prescribed, a blister in 12%, sweating in 12%, and an emetic (usually ipecac) in 5%. Favorite medicines, but used less frequently, were cascara bark, flour of camomile, manna, gentian root, senega root, valerian root, pinkroot, tincture of lavender, and spirits of niter. Though opium and paregoric were sometimes pre-

scribed these drugs, apparently, did not stand high in the doctor's estimation. Plasters were frequently used and he attached considerable importance to emplastrum roborans, a strength giving plaster, which would give strength to that part of the body to which it was applied. He made numerous combinations of drugs such as make up a prescription and some of these compounds appear today in drug stores labeled as home remedies.

Dr. Lee Griggs was regarded as learned mathematician in his day. Mathematics, at the time, was regarded as a discipline of the mind and an indispensible field of knowledge. At the beginning of the 19th Century there was a lack of treatises on the subject, the tutor supplying all of the details of instruction. Dr. Griggs, when a very young man, developed a text of his This, however, was never published. Today its content would be regarded as that embraced in the scope of elementary arithmetic. The work had to do chiefly with weights and measures, and their applications. A student of the subject would be enlightened from studying it as methods only were shown without supporting mathematical reasoning. The applications were all rule-of-thumb.

It was at about the same time that Capt. Moses Smith, an acquainfance of Dr. Griggs, formulated his own text on mathematical principles. The system used by Capt. Smith was similar to that of Dr. Griggs. So much alike were their manuscripts it appears that they must have collaborated or have been taught by the same preceptor. The Griggs text is owned by Mrs. E. Graham Wilson of Charles Town. The Smith Text is owned by Mr. Robert U. Smith of Middleway.

Dr. Lee Griggs died in 1831, at the age of forty-two.

Dr. Benjamin Wigginton (1803-1847) became Dr. Lee Griggs' successor in the practice of medicine. having moved to Smithfield where he was domiciled at the time of his death. He was a sen of Cel James Wigginton and Sarah Pendleton Wigginton, a niece of Ed-mund Pendleton. Dr. Wigginton was reared at the Green Hill Farm in Clark Co., Va., where his family had been prominent in the affairs of the region. Elizabeth Wigginton. his sister, was said to have read all of her brother's books on medicine and, in her day, was regarded as an authority on the subject.

Dr. Wigginton married Rebecca Fry Beckman (1811-1856) of Smithfield. She was the widow of Kemo Beckman and daughter of Daniel Fry of settler stock. The children of this union were Dr. James Daniel Wigginton, Elizabeth Wigginton, and Sally Pendleton Wigginton who died when but a

few years of age.

Dr. Wigginton was an esteemed practitioner in the Smithfield community. In the early days of Valley history the isolation of com-munities tended to shut in their inhabitants and not infrequently strange temperaments and bizarre characters developed. Though victims of the social order, advice from medical practitioners was sought as to what could best be done for such psychopathic personalities. In this Dr. Wigginton hit upon occupational therapy for jangled nerves. He prescribed a study of music for the emotionally distraught. As he was an accomplished violinist, he undertook to calm nervous tensions with his own music.



"WILLOWMERE" the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Jennings at Middleway; built in 1840 by William Heiston, and purchased by J. Henry Jennings in 1884, father of the present owner, the latter making a modern addition in 1941. The home is the site of Smith's Hemp Mill along Turkey Run, in operation about 1790.



### John Hall's Breech-Loading Rifle John Hall's ratent, issued May 21, 1811, included an improvement

By CHARLOTTE J. FAIRBAIRN

John Harris Hall, of Portland Maine, is today almost a forgotten

Yet. gun collectors, historians, and the records of the War Department all agree that he was the father of the present-day produc-tion line, and the inventor of the first acceptable breech-loading

His name is well known to guncollectors, who debate among themselves the merits and demerits of his rifles for service use.

But somewhere, in the confusion of the John Brown raid at Harpers Ferry, now West Virginia, where he spent the last twenty years of his life in service for his government, the greatest contribution of John Hall's creative life was lost and forgotten. It is only by reassembling scattered records from Harpers Ferry, Washington, D. C. and Portland, Maine, that we arrive at a conception of the magnitude of this contribution.

John Hall was born in 1778, in Portland, Maine, the first son of Stephen Hall, a native of Westford, Mass., and his wife Mary Cotton. He came from a long line of gifted ancestors, who were ministers, doctors, lawyers, inventors,

and fine craftsmen.

Sometime between the ages of 20-22, 1808-1810) he designed at Yarmouth a sloop, to be used as a privateer, "hastily built and of short life." The Yankee, as he named her, had "a flat bottom along which ran a keel nearly six feet deep bolted through and through to the keelson. It was intended to have the same effect as the centerboard of a yacht, but had no prevision for drawing it up in a heavy sea. The Yankee was owned by a company on shares and was in command of Cart. James Brooks. Her first voyage was also her last for she never returned and it was generally thought she foundered for the deep keel gave such enormous purchase to the seas that her fastening could be easily broken and a plank started." - (Shinbuilding Days in Casco Bay - William Hutchinson Rowe.)

Apparently this disastrous attempt was John Hall's last boatbuilding effort. In 1812, he stood at the foot of Temple Street in Portland, and "fired a ball through the vane above the steeple of the old First Parish Church"—to tes" the accuracy of his newly-completed Breech-loading gun, first of its kind to be seen in Portland.

Breechloading of guns had beer

invented by William Thornton of Washington, D. C. The Thornton addition to Hall's design consisted of a movable receiver which made it possible, as it had never beer before, for men under fire to reload while lying down or on horseback. The old muskets had to be loaded from a standing position, a hazard under close fire.

The ball from John Hall's gur went through the First Parish Church weather-vane, and the thole was clearly visible until 1825. when a new and higher church building was built on the site of the old. At this time, this historic memento was removed from the old church steeple, and set on top of the new, and higher, steeple. But with the aid of a glass, the patch may still be seen that covers the bullet-hole in the weathervane.

The following year, 1813, John Hall applied to the Government for a test to be made of his rifle, hoping for its acceptance for use in the war with England. A first test was made, after long persuasion of the best military minds of the day, in 1816, but it was not until March 19, 1819, that the tests were finally completed and his rifle accepted for manufacture in Harpers Ferry, now West Virginia.

During the six years it took to convince the Government that his design had merit, against the longestablished military ovinion that the smooth-bore musket was the only acceptable small arm for service use, John Hall lived in Portland and devoted his time to manufacturing sporting arms and pistols embodying his system of breech-loading. These pistols, today, are very rare.

He joined the militia, during the War of 1812, in Capt. Shaw's company, raised at Portland, and on active duty in Portland from Sept. 7-19, and Sept. 26-Oct. 3, 1814. This was the Portland Light Infantry, organized June 6th, 1803. The 1814 record lists John H. Hall. Lieutenant. Apparently, he was later promoted to Captain, the

rank accorded him in later Congressional reports.

During these six years (1813-1819), he also worked steadily on improvements of his rifle design, as comparison of his designs covering this period will show.

At this time, too, he married Statira Preble, of the sea-faring Maine Prebles. Statira Preble, a sister of William Pitt Preble, was born in 1788. She traced her antried for many years, but never with any success. Hall's rifle was the first to be accepted by any government for use in the service south in 1788. She traced her ancestry back to Abraham Preble, who settled at Scituate, Mass., in 1636. The exact date of their marging is not known.

Following are a tew exerpts from voluminous records in the files of the Library of Congress, which will prove conclusively that John Hall was the inventor of the first SUC-CESSFUL breech-loading gun, and that his machines for making these guns were the first machines ever cited by the government as being entirely successful in the achievement of perfect interchangeability of parts.

"The difficulties he encountered in perfecting his design, building it into a rractical arm, and ther inducing the government officials to depart from their fixed methods and customs can well be imagined, and the five years required to socure recognition of his invention is ample proof that he was no' only an inventor, but that he had the necessary stick-to-itiveness required to successfully see an undertaking through to the finish.' ("The Breechloader in the Service", Claude Fuller)

On Jan. 24, 1815, wrote to Colonel Bomford of the

Bureau of Ordnance:

"I invented the improvement in 1811, being at that time but little acquainted with rifles, and being perfectly ignorant of any method whatever of loading guns at the breech.'

Actually, writes Mr. Fuller, in "The Breechloader in the Service," "Breechloading seems to have come into use almost with the introduction of gun-pewder, and there are numerous records of cannon of this type dating back to 1313, and of hand-firearms as early as 1472, but loading at the muzzle, especially of hand-firearms, became the accented method, particularly for military purposes.

Most important of John Hall's innovations, was the achievement for which today he does not have due recognition: that of inventing and developing machinery which made inter-changeability of parts possible, making present-day production lines a reality. Congressional records prove that his achievement of perfection in interchangeability was the first in the world, although experiments with the system had been conducted by others, notably Eli Whitney, who today receives popular acclaim for its perfection.

Mr. Whitney, encouraged by Thomas Jefferson, also used inter-



changeability in the manufacture of small arms, but the report of Colonel Bomford to the War Dept. of January 31, 1827, and the report of the special commissioners appointed to examine Hall's machinery, January 6th. 1827, both clearly state that while the manufacture of arms on the interchangeable system had previously been attempted both at home and abroad, these experiments had been abandoned for lack of complete dependability.

"This degree of perfection in the fabrication of small arms has ever been considered an object of highest importance in all national armories, and has frequently been attempted in the armories of Europe, but hitherto without success—" (Colonel Bomford's Report

to War Dept., Jan. 31, 1827)
"It is well known, we believe, that arms have never yet been made so exactly similar to each other by any process as to require no marking of the several parts and so that those parts, on being changed, would suit equally well when applied to every other arm. But the machines we have examined (Hall's) effect this with a certainty and precision." (Board of examiners' Report to War Dept. January 6th, 1827)

The difficulties of perfecting a system of manufacture of small arms on the interchangeable system has long been considered insurmountable, even by the ord-nance experts of European nations, and except for the production of Hall's arms, did not come into use in the United States armories until 1842." (The Breechloader in the Service - Claude Fuller)

John Hall had his interchangeability system in mind as early as 1816, as evidenced by his letter to War Department, just after the first successful trial of his guns

by troops:
"Only one point now remains to bring the rifles to utmost perfection, which I shall attempt, if the Government contracts with me for the rifles to any considerable amount, viz: to make every similar part of every gun so much alike that it will suit every other gun. . This important point I conceive practicable. .

On March 19, 1819, the contract was at last signed between John H. Hall and Decius Wadsworth. colonel of ordnance, in consideration of one thousand dollars to be raid to John Hall, that he should manufacture at one of the public armories a thousand rifles, and should serve at the armory in the capacity of assistant armorer. Harpers Ferry was selected as the site for this manufacture, and the Halls moved there from Portland in the Spring of 1819.

Harpers Ferry, situated in a rugged gap at the juncture of the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers, had been selected by Congress in 1794, on recommendation of Presi-

dent Washington, as the site for the new national armory and arsenal.

The armory buildings were tooled to produce mostly the French infantry musket of 1763. Two new buildings were assigned to Hall's exclusive use, on the Island of Virginius, in the Shenandoah River at Harpers Ferry, quite apart from the armory buildings, which were located on the banks of the Potomac. Other buildings were later added, and comfortable homes for the workers, and the location became known as "Hall's Rifle Works."

The Halls were assigned a large the eminent statesman and gover-

nor of Missouri.
The Halls had two other children who lived to maturity: Lydia Ingraham, and William Augustus. William A., in later life, moved with his brother to Missouri, where he served as Congressman and also distinguished himself as a statesman and orator. Lydia married Dr. Nicholas Marmion, a reputable physician of Harpers Ferry.

While his children were growing up, John Hall spent twenty-two years of his life in active and devoted service to the Government, perfecting his guns, developing his machinery and methods, and producing rifles to fulfill his contracts. That he did so to the complete satisfaction of the boards of examiners is a matter of Congressional record.

A few special reports are of outstanding interest. The reports confirming the success of his rifles and machinery have already been quoted in part. A full perusal of Colonel Bomford's report, and the report of the special board of examiners will prove beyond doubt that John Hall's rifles were accepted by the board and proven by many trials to be the best available in their day. We learn, too, that they were also the least expensive The cost to the government was at first \$20.59 per rifle (for the firs' 1000 rifles) but successive figure: show that Hall's constant improvements in his manufacturing methods reduced the costs to \$17.82 ar 1826, and \$14.50 in 1835. Thes figures included the cost of al. accoutrements and the packingboxes.

The machinery used in the Armory at Harpers Ferry for making muskets, before Hall's arrival, had cost the Government \$72,000 Hall's revolutionary machinery, which he built himself at Government expense, developing the principle of interchangeability, cost the Government \$57,076.82.

"It is but an act of justice to Mr. Hall the inventor," wrote Col Bomford, "to state that during this whole period he has devoted himself with the greatest zeal and assiduity to the perfecting of this arm and of the means of fabricating it, and that in both he has been eminently successful. And to him is due the merit of effecting so great an improvement in firearms."

That Capt. Hall was working, during this time, under extreme difficulty is evidenced by the following quotation from the Report of the special Commissioners, in 1827:

"In the course of our examination, we could not help but notice. and that with extreme regret, the crowded state in which we found Hall's machinery, and repeatedly witnessed the inconvenience and embarrassment he was subjected to for want of more room and betand well-built brick house, on the brow of "Camp Hill", which overlooks Harpers Ferry. Here, on May larly in his stocking department, 9, 1820, their son, Willard Preble, was born. In later life, he became was born. In later life, he became was born to the way to make room for the operation of another.'

The commissioners were obviously impressed, however, with the magnificent achievement of Mr. Hall in the face of these hard-

ships:

"Permit us to observe that we were not fully sensible, when we commenced this examination, of its importance, and feel our incompetency to do that justice to the subject it requires, and wish it had been confided to those who were more able to report the merits of the machinery and the inventor, who, we trust, will receive that patronage from the Government his talents, science and mechanical ingenuity deserve."

Apparently Hall had developed an unusual method, too, for protecting his rifles from rust:

"The barrel and all other steel or iron is coated with brown lac-quer. As lacquer does not appear on U.S. government arms after the destruction of the Harpers Ferry works in 1861, presumably the formula was lost with the other burned records; because this lacquer is an admirable preservative and of excellent wearing qualities, it is not affected by water, oil or acid; it is tough and hard, and so adhesive that it can only be removed by scraping. . . . (Claude Fuller)

And another improvement: A unique feature of the action generally overlooked by the student of this arm is the adjustable hairtrigger. This consists of an adjusting screw passing through the sear by means of which any desired trigger pull can be secured and is a refinement in a military arm many years in advance of its day."

(Claude Fuller)

During the years from 1819 until the report of the special commissioners on January 6th, 1827, Capt. Hall had been working at a salary of \$60 per month, his rent and fuel furnished. In addition, he was paid for the use of his invention, \$1 per rifle, of which he had produced 2,000. On March 8th, 1827. he was awarded a new contract with the salary of \$1450 per annum, about \$120 per month, and a fee of \$9,000 for the invention of his labor-saving machinery. With rent-free quarters and fuel furnished, the Halls could live comfortably, in the Harpers Ferry of that day.



In the report which sets forth these personal details, Col. Bomford concludes "the invention has been thoroughly tested . . . in all trials and comparisons . . . it has invariably maintained its decided superiority over all other firearms; and in short, there is no longer any doubt of its being the best small firearms known."

By 1828, the Government was sufficiently convinced of the superiority of Hall's design, and of the breechloader for service use. that it entered into contracts with private manufacturers for producing them in greater quantity than the limited facilities at Harpers Ferry would permit. Contracts were issued to four other manufacturers, but all except Col. S. North at Middletown changed their contracts to the manufacture of other small arms, because they were unable to produce rifles to meet the high standards of Hall's interchangeable system. Colonel North, however, fulfilled his contract, and continued to manufacture Hall rifles for some years.

John Hall was not pleased withthis development. A perfectionist at heart, he mistrusted Colonel North's ability to produce Hali rifles according to the unfailingly high standards he had set for their manufacture at Harpers Ferry. He wrote, on July 26, 1830, a vigorous letter to Colonel Bomford, asking that a portion of the rifles produced by North would be delivered to him at the Ferry for his inspection, before their accepance by the Government. His point, and a justifiable one, was that the slightest deviation from the Hall specifications would "prove destructive to the great object for which such an amount of time and money has been expended." However, he found the rifles satisfactory on inspection, and Colonel North continued in their manufacture from 1828 until his death in 1852.

In 1836, Colonel Bomford wrote, in answer to an inquiry from the War Department as to how many of Captain Hall's rifles the public service would require in the next 20 years;

But should Hall's patents be adopted as a substitute for the musket and ordinary rifles and carbine, as its great advantages fully justify, then the number would be twenty thousands stands. Yet, as it might be hazardous to introduce so great a change into the principle weapon of the country, (though in all human reason it would be accompanied by signal advantages), its adoption should be gradual . . "

But the years were beginning to tell on John Hall. In increasingly poor health, he made his will on the 25th of September, 1838. On February 26, 1841, he died in Harpers Ferry, still in active service for his Government.

His will is on file in the County Court House of Jefferson County, now West Virginia. (Will Book No 12, p. 193). He left all his estate to his wife, Statira Preble Hall, and constituted his son, William Augustus Hall, his executor. His daughter Lydia and son Willard P. witnessed the probation of the will.

With the death of the inventor, the undeviating high standard and adherence to specifications began to waver, in the manufacture of Hall rifles. Gradually, other voices began to be heard, and at last a clamor arose from other inventors who demanded that their arms be given trial. Political influence and military prejudice began to be felt.

On January 14, 1845, Lieut.-Col. Talcott, of the Ordnance Dept., wrote to the Hon. Wm. Wilkins, Secr'y of War:

"The United States long since adopted Hall's rifles, after such trials as appeared to satisfy all objections, and that they were overcome is shown fully by the reports and statements made. . . . How is it that the opinion of their utility has recently been changed? It is because no attention has been paid to keep the arms in the hands of troops in good condition, nor have the soldiers been properly instructed to use them.

"I am practically acquainted with the use of Hall's arms, and assert unqualifiedly that if my life and honor were at stake, and depended upon the use of firearms, I would sooner take one of these than any other weapon. But fashions change, and what is good today will be cried down tomorrow. Upon due consideration of the subject, the department decided on abandoning the manufacture of breech-loading firearms..."

What jealousy and ambition in rival inventors started, in the abandonment of Hall's rifles for service use, was completed by the John Brown Raid at Harpers Ferry, the War, and burning of the armory, arsenal and Hall's Rifle Works. On April 18, 1861, at the outbreak of hostilities, Lieut. Roger Jones, then in military command at Harpers Ferry, set fire to the Rifle Works on Government orders, to prevent the Confederates from capturing this valuable source of military material. Virginia's Colonel Ashby, however, rescued most of the arms-producing machinery, which was shipped to Fayettville, to produce arms for the Confederate forces. What was left of the Rifle Works was swept away in the great flood of 1870, and the world began to forget John Hall.

But there are still a few who remember.

In Portland, Maine, there are still members of the First Parish Church who will point out the bullet-hole made by John Hall with his first breech-loading gun.

In Harpers Ferry, John Hall's great-grandson, William V. Marmion, still lives in the old Harper House, where his grandmother, Lydia Hall Marmion, lived with her husband and eight children.

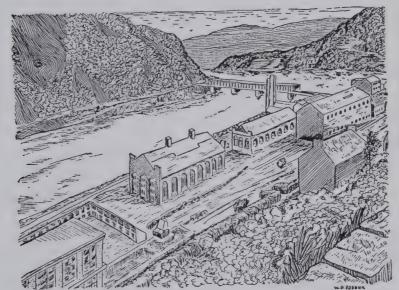
Descendants of the Honorable Willard Preble Hall still live in Missouri. But they, too, have forgotten about John Hall. The record ended at Harpers Ferry.

Today, John Hall is a name on a gun, and a brief line in an encyclopedia reference to the his famous sons. His lifetime of service and creative achievement is deserving of better remembrance.





RUINS OF HALL'S RIFLE WORKS—Taken from an old photograph, the sketch shows the Rifle Works after the plant was fired on by Union troops in 1861. Disastrous floods have reduced the building to heaps of rubble, but traces of the old power canal and power plant remain along the Shenandoah River at Harpers Ferry.



ARSENAL AND ARMORY—President Washington's familiarity with the area surrounding Harpers Ferry led to his recommendation that a U. S. Government Arsenal and Armory be established in the town; it began operation late in 1796, with full scale production in 1800. Great water power, natural resources, strategic location and ease of transportation figured in Washington's decision.



JOHN HALL'S RIFLE—The development of this breechloading rifle resulted in the building of Hall's Rifle Works, and John Hall's appointment as assistant armorer at Harpers Ferry. Hall, a mechanical genius of his day, was a pioneer in the employment of inter-changeable parts in his various inventions.



# Lost, Stolen... Railway Engines!

By MARIANA ROSS

The following advertisement might have been inserted, once upon a time, by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad: "Reward for information leading to the return of railroad engines which disappeared from our lines in Martinsburg, Va., starting with July, 1861. Also missing; equipment such as lathes, planers, drill presses, a turn-table; five miles of

track, including rails, ties,

chairs and spikes.'

What might very well be considered a "tall tale" in Northern circles, and what has become almost a legend hereabouts, is the story contained in the above paragraph - a case of truth being stranger than fiction. For it is an established fact, recorded in the history of the railroad, that no less than 19 engines were stolen by the Confederacy in almost two years of daring raids upon the rolling stock and the roundhouse at Martinsburg, during the years 1861-62. A few of the engines were removed from Harpers Ferry and Duffields, and the five miles of track that was conveyed South came originally from the main line between Duffields and Kearneysville. It must be set down, in the interest of truth, however, that his last "prize of war" was used by the raiders only a few hours. Relaid, between Manassas Gap and Centerville, it was completed on Saturday evening, only to be captured by Union forces on Sunday morning! J. E. Duke, who enlisted from Jefferson County, Va., and who was Colonel Thomas R. Sharp's confidential clerk, was present when many of the raids were accomplished, and was identified with the entire project, from time to time. He gave a wry account, later, of the short life of the Manassas line!

### THE CONFEDERACY NEEDED ROLLING STOCK

It is not hard to visualize the predicament of the Confederacy when it was faced with the mountain-sized problem of transporting masses of men, horses, food, ordnance, ammunition, etc., that the war presented. Their railroads, adequate for peacetime traffic, soon faced an acute shortage of rolling stock, locomotives, cars, and machinery. They had a few shops, of course, but their combined facilities were not equal to the demands made upon them. Even if funds had been available European and Northern markets were out of the question, necessarily. What to do? The solution of the problem was an obvious one, but so daring and bold as to occur to few men. Col. Sharp, whom history will re-

cord as well-named, is generally credited with the scheme of seizing the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad rolling stock at Martinsburg At that time he was captain and acting quartermaster in the Confederate Army, a civil engineer, and a "thorough railroad man, self-reliant and resourceful," according to Earnest Shriver's old

account.

The situation at Martinsburg seemed made to order for the stricken Confederacy. Much of that time the line; a prosperous one of standard gauge, extending from Baltimore to St. Louis, and completely equipped with first-class stock, was within the grasp of southern forces. It was only 18 miles from Winchester, which they held undisputed. Only 38 miles from Martinsburg was the nearest southern railroad. Had not fortune aptly placed this terminus, with shops and roundhouse, a point of assembly and distribution for cars and engines? Col. Sharp so convinced his superiors at Richmond. Now for the practical details.

Railroad men, of course, did the job. Completely separate from the military, they relied on this branch only for protection, for they were skilled workmen and irreplacable. Their work was often interrupted by skirmishing, and the railroad in these years, was not always in Confederate hands. Nevertheless, after perhaps months of interruption by the fortunes of war, they patiently and systematically resumed the arduous task. Although the B. and O. could have been termed a "Northern" road, it was not strictly that. Nevertheless, it was the Confederacy alone that inflicted the damage during the war years. (Later, the government reimbursed the company for this,

it is understood.)

### FORTY HORSES, 25 MEN CAPTURE FIRST ENGINE

But the actual carrying out of the bold plan is of interest as one of the most complicated and most intricately worked out military schemes of modern warfare. To residents of this vicinity, it is not impossible to conjure up on a

bright July morning, 1861, a picture of "the capture". Early a parade of some 35 men and 40 horses marched from Winchester upon Martinsburg. Six of the men were machinists, ten of them teamsters, and the rest laborers. The horses had been hired and impressed in the Valley, some of them being driven by their well-to-do owners. All were fine specimen of heavy draught animals. As they approached the roundhouse, a big locomotive was seen standing on a side-track. Immediately their foreman shouted to them to set about their mighty task, for time was an ever-present factor in their minds, with the enemy not far distant. The accounts tell us that the following method was used, and with

First the tender was uncoupled, then the engine was raised by means of jack-screws and stripped of all parts that could be removed, such as side and piston rods, valves, levers, lamps, bell, whistle, and sandbox. All the wheels were taken off except the flange drivers at the rear. When this was done. "what had been but a few minutes before a splendid iron Pegasus, was a helpless, inert mass, a mere shell, deformed and crippled, and ready to submit to any indignity, even to that of being hauled over a country road by the horses whose office it had so long usurped."!

The next step was to swing the stripped engine around until it hung at right angles with the track, and to replace the missing forward wheels with a heavy truck made for this purpose, furnished with iron-shod wooden wheels, and fastened to the engine's bumper with an iron bolt serving as a linch pin. When the jacks were removed, the engine rested on the flange drivers and the wheels of the truck. A powerful chain formed the connecting link between the locomotive and the team of horses. This, in turn, was fastened to the single, the double, and the "fou'ble" trees, by means of which the horses pulled.

Thus we get the picture of the 40 mighty beasts, four abreast, covering the entire width of the road, and strung out over 100 ft. of its length. Surely this must have been a strange sight, and we are told that the curious lined the roadways. A teamster mounted the end of each four, ten whips cracked, and the mighty cavalcade moved majestically down the Turnpike. Believe it or not, the whole distance to Winchester was sometimes covered in one day. At others, only a few miles were traversed, for the Macadam road gave way at intervals and the whole



mass was bogged down in the mua of their own churning. Bridges had to be reinforced, or rebuilt. Pickets scouted the enemy's movements. But one of the hardest problems to solve, says Shriver, was that of controlling the speed in descending the hills! Had one of the "giant engines" got out of control, horses and men could not have been saved from injury or death. Accordingly, the indispensable jack-screw was put into use as a brake, being fastened to the engine frame, placed sidewise against the drive wheel, and tightened or loosened, as needed, by a man who rode on the engine.

Tenders were conveyed in the same way as engines, and a few cars, which were taken mainly to haul detached portions of locomotives. The trip to Strasburg averaged three days, being 38 miles from Martinsburg. Two or three of the engines, it must be admitted, were abandoned when Union forces appeared on the scene unheralded and unannounced. These were left by the Pike until the railroad recovered them at the war's end, and refitted them for service.

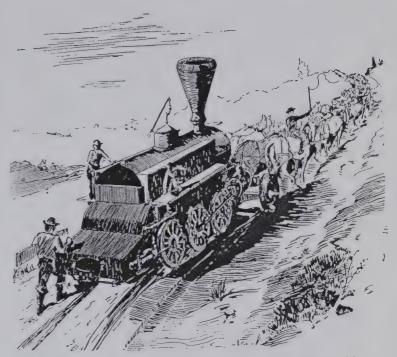
# WINANS' "CAMELBACKS" MARVELS OF UGLINESS

When we remember that the engines referred to were, in the main, the "camelback" type, invented by Ross Winans of Baltimore, we cannot accept the description of "giant, big, prize", or any such glowing terms. Although they were sturdy pullers, and gave long and excellent service, they were "marvels of ugliness". Clumsy, malformed, awkward, and bulging would more nearly describe them. But they were the first 30-ton engines were the service of the service of the service of ugliness.

gines in the world, and their fame spread throughout that world. Some of them were still pegging away at the turn of the century, still too good for the scrap heap!

The seized stock, taken over a period of more than a year in this vicinity, was used throughout the South, being moved farther away as Union victories imperilled it. Taken at so much risk and at such a cost in time and effort and strategy, the Confederacy was determined to protect its prizes, so vitally needed.

Thus, when, in June of 1861, the forces under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston occuried Harpers Ferry, controlling the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad from Point of Rocks to a considerable distance west of Martinsburg, they paved the way for as bold and daring a maneuver as history can find. STOLEN: 19 RAILROAD ENGINES!



PRIZE CAPTURE OF THE CONFEDERACY

Cut off from northern and foreign facilities for augmenting railway rolling stock, the Confederate States, with the help of Col. Thomas R. Sharp, devised a bold scheme to capture northern railway materials, including nineteen engines, transport everything overland — the longest distance 38 miles. Reassembled and refitted, these engines rolled deep into Dixieland and served the Southern cause throughout the war of 1861-65.



# The Village Smithy Raises Biggest Hog

lished, was taken from the files of data compiled by Col. Robert Lee Bates, member of the faculty of Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va. Born and reared in Middleway, his collection of community history is the finest at hand from local historians.)

### By COL. R. L. BATES

The writers of history books tell the story of celebrities. They describe the folkways and mores in terms of broad generality. It is not easy for the educational and political elite to see life as viewed by submerged people. The great movements of history begin wher marginal men, in the aggregate, become vocal. The historian is mindful of the fact that the great owe their greatness to the devotion of followers with a willingness to be led; to the mass of citizenry who play unsung though necessary parts in fulfilling the nation's destiny; and to the voting populace from whom the great derive their powers.

As a prelude to an understanding of a drab period in the life of rural America, it is pertinent to this story about a character who lived in Smithfield (now Middleway) Jefferson county, West Virginia, that the reader become acquainted with a village blacksmith; the service he rendered his community; his desire for and quest of a good name independent of any trumped-up good will; and his way of actually attaining a distinction which elevated him, in his own eyes, to a place a prince might

Mr. Charlie, a stocky, rotund man, was about fifty years old. He was ruddy and buoyant. Nature had built him on the apoplectic side. His Sunday clothes were too tight. The strain on his buttons had frayed the button holes. He usually wore a corduroy cap with a long visor. He was an accommodating soul and his avoirdupois did not prevent him from rendering his services to the farming folk who often rushed into his shop for the immediate repair of a plow or other broken implement. In warm weather he had much difficulty keeping perspiration out of his eyes. As a young man he had married but his wife died in a daughter's infancy. Mr. Charlie never married again. At the time of which we are writing, the daughter had grown into a buxom adult. It was a complicated family structure that grew out of the precarious economics of the day. The daughter lived with a married but childless uncle. Mr. Charlie lived with his two bachelor brothers. Their homes were not far apart. Altogether it was a close-knit family.

Mr. Charlie could read but two of his brothers could not. In the bachelor household the men got their meals and did their own mending and washing even before their old mother, whom they idolized, had died.

Mr. Charlie took some pride in minding his own business. He made numerous observations on successful living and quoted the old people as authority: "My old uncle used to say, 'Plant your corn when an oak leaf is as big as a squirrel's ear.'" But he rarely gave advice without its being solicited. He faithfully performed every contract even though the agreement depended on nothing more than a casual pledge or promise often extracted from him in an unguarded moment. There had been some-thing in his early training that made an over-charge for any kind of work nothing less than a fraud in his system of ethics. He redoubled his effort when compli-mented for his physical prowess or when someone, in his presence, praised his workmanship. Such statements often elicited from him a discourse on "what was right." In the grime of his work he never lost his civility or pride. This was a proud age. His expletives, though his business was the kind to provoke them, rarely if ever exceeded "dog-on" or "Pshaw." Nature, seemingly, had destined him to be "poor but honest." He was not what one might call "churched," though in some of the nightly conferences among farmers assembled at a store he indicated that he was an indefatigable reader of the New Testament. With candor, he maintained that he had no liking for, or trucking with, the Old Dispensation. He belonged to no lodge or civic organization - only to the

Democratic Party.
His shop was a shed-like structure that abutted the highway on the edge of the village where Grace Street became the Bunker Hill Road. All kinds of broken and cast-off iron littered the place. His work bench was so cluttered with debris that he had to push things around whenever he used a side of it. An old flintlock rifle, of the history of which he had no knowledge, hung over the table. Across from the bench were the bellows and forge. The bellows was pumped by a long pole that served as a lever. Most of his work was in shoeing horses. The horse was duly tied and the person who brought it to the shop was supposed to keep off the flies, if it were summer time. The fly bush was made of a horse's tail that had been skinned from some dead animal, the hide tanned and attached to a wooden handle. The shoe was heated to a white hot temperature and then nature evidenced itself.

hammered upon an anvil that was stationed in the middle of the shop. Calks were thus shaped and the shoe fitted to the hoof. In the fitting process there was usually a brief period of singeing with its accompanying acrid fleshy odor. This the animal did not seem to mind but small boys, watching the process, winced at the possible pain inflicted. If the fit of the shoe was approved it was then dipped into a tub of cold water for the purpose of tempering it for long usage. The final operation was to nail it on and file down the rough spots.

All kinds of broken castings were brought in for welding. Often when the broken part could not be had the blacksmith would improvise one from his own anvil and forge. His implements, like hammers, saws, chisels, files, and tools in general, belonged to a by-gone age. The plane, in its apparent hundred years of use, was worn out of shape from the pressure exerted on one end. This made the cutter ineffective for wood work, but Mr. Charlie persisted in using it. He even boasted that he would not exchange it for all other planes ever made.

Though a half century has elapsed, a colloquy like this may be

recorded:

"What can I do for you, young man?" said Mr. Charlie after a youthful customer had sat and waited a long time for his atten-

"I should like for you to make me a gig out of this piece of iron." "When do you want this gig?"

"I would like to have it right away, and I would like to watch you make it."

Now look here young man! See all this work I have piled up! I am so busy I don't know whether I'll ever get done. No Sir! I can't make it now and I don't know whether I ever can. — Come on and let's make that gig." All other work was suspended while he proceeded to make this implement for spearing fish in the near-by stream.

Mr. Charlie was a fair musician. He played the lead violin in the string band though it required considerable coaxing to get him to perform. Angels in the Air, the Blue Tail Fly, the Kiss Waltz, Old Dan Tucker, Sweet Evalina and the Mocking Bird were a part of his repertoire. The bass violinist suspended playing while Mr. Charlie made his E-string perform in a truly ornithological fashion. He played by ear.

The blacksmith had a weakness which, though he did not often indulge it, now and then brought him into a state of intoxication. It was at such times that his religious



"I believe in the New Testament
—The Old Testament is just a
guide—But it don't guide me—Now
let's see, Christ said—Christ said—
Christ said—What did Christ say?
—You know what he said—I say
blessed are the meek—That's what
he said."

His daughter on one occasion expressing her contempt addressed the father as "Mr. Keg." The name stuck and out of his hearing the townsmen often spoke of him as Mr. Keg.

Mr. Keg once decided that he would raise the biggest hog in Jefferson county. He, thereupon. procured a May pig, for a May pig reaches butchering size by Thanksgiving which was the accepted date for slaughtering fattened hogs. But Mr. Keg had no idea of butchering the animal that fall. Instead, he would kill it the following November a year. Affectionately he named the pig "Little Dick." By the next summer-a-year Little Dick had reached such proportions he could only stand on his fore legs so he sat and ate slops from the trough. People from round about came to see the animal and marvel at its size. This pleased the owner. It was a claim to distinction. Mr. Charlie would, in his off moments, lean over the pen and contemplate Little Dick with words of endearment. "Nice pig, nice pig."

Corn, mash and slops were fed in the fall. Little Dick had reached such size he could no longer stand. He lay with his nose in the trough and became fatter. More people

came to view the hog.

The date for the butchering was appointed. It was a gala event Pots, pans and kettles were brought for the occasion. Firkin were standing by for the lard Some housewives had tendered their assistance. The stones had already grown hot in the blazing log pile. The water was being heated by immersing in it the red ho's stones. The fatal hour came. A tense moment. A rifle shot rang out.

The scalding vat proved inadequate for the purpose and much difficulty was encountered for the hog so jammed the container that most of the hot water was forced out. This necessitated a great delay. Hard cider was on hand in quantities and there was heavy drinking of this, an ancient, and highly favored beverage. Whether the mishaps were due to excessive indulgence of cider or to unforseen circumstances cannot be said. A block-and-tackle had been provided which had a winch attached. A gambrel had been stuck in the hog's hind feet to which a heavy rope was tied. Instead of the hoisting implement being placed immediately over the hog it was set at some distance to one side. In turning the winch instead of the hog being drawn to the tackle, the tackle was drawn to the hog. No one observed this until the thing upset, struck a colored man on the head, and Bill Ford was laid out for dead. The butchering went on with lessened enthusiasm until the negro began to show signs of life.

Someone leaned over him and heard his gasp, "God is so good." Then hilarity began in earnest. While excitement was running high the local doctor, a country practitioner, rode by, paused and inquired as to how the butchering was progressing. Little Dick was already suspended from his hind feet and the disemboweling had begun.

"Doc, won't you have some hard cider?" said the proud owner of the hog. But Mr. Charlie hastened to whisper in the doctor's ear, "I've got something a whole lot better in the shop, let's go." The doctor, by no means averse to such a treat, readily consented and the two men

quietly disappeared.

"Doc, this is the best liquor you ever tasted; it's the best liquor ever made," said Mr. Charlie as he reached into a hiding place. Whiskey was put into any kind of a flask in those days. It was often bought in demijohns and transferred to smaller containers. The doctor put the bottle to his lips, and took a mighty gulp. There was some furious coughing and gagging as he rushed unceremoniously and madly to his horse, made a hasty mount and galloped away. The doctor was convivial by nature and

this was not his customary behavior. It turned out that the bottle mistakenly contained horse liniment. What the doctor sought was an emetic which he did not, at the time, have in his saddle-bags.

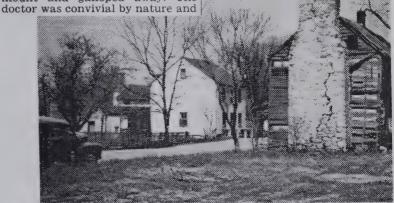
But all was well that ended well. Little Dick tipped the scales to a trifle less than 600 pounds—the biggest hog in Jefferson county.

Some months elapsed and Mr. Charlie was struck down with apoplexy. For a while he languished as inert as his over-sized pig. The shop was vacant for a long time. The blacksmith had departed for "that undiscovered country."

# News From Old Papers

New Cheap and Desirable, Spring and Summer Goods, On hand and for sale Low either for Money or on long indulgence. April 24, 1846.

Jon. J. Lock & Co.



SMITH'S TAVERN still stands in Middleway, a scntinel of the past. The village was chartered as Smithfield January 15, 1798 by act of the General Assembly of Virginia on the lands of John Smith, Jr. and William Smith (no connection of the Henry Smith, who built the tavern). Middleway had the local name of "Clipp" the locale for a wierd legend—"The Wizard Clipper." Middleway was an appropriate name in the old days, being a focal point on the turnpike—an equal distance from Winchester, Va., to Martinsburg and Harpers Ferry, now in West Virginia.



OLD PLANTATION BLACKSMITH AND UTILITY SHOP on the Engle Farm near Bardane. Whether on the farm or along the village street, the old blacksmith shops were usually constructed of logs with a wide door-way for heavy vehicles to enter, and vied with the barbershop for the dissemination of news... and sometimes gossip.



By MRS. J. W. STRIDER

Biographers tell us that Charles. son of Colonel John Lee and Isabeila Bunbury Lee, was baptized in St. Martin's Church of Cheste: in northwestern England on January 26, 1732 - and sixteen day. later George Washington was borr. in Bridges Creek, Westmoreland County, Virginia. It was destined that two babies, so far apart, should grow to manhood, and become intimately associated in the American Revolution.

Their lives were parallel in many ways-both were educated; miliington was sent in 1752 to quiet animosity in our own country. the French uprising in the Great

Lakes area.

Lee and Washington knew Virginia—a country of beauty, plentifully supplied with rivers and clear, spring water, timber, farm land. A state of opportunity. Washington had inherited Mt. Vernon; and Lee had acquired an estate in the

Valley.

A bit earlier another baby was born in Maldo-Essex County, England—Horatio Gates—1728-1806— 1763 Gates bought a farm in among them.

Berkeley County, Virginia, which "What a sturdy, vigorous lot Berkeley County, Virginia, which he called "Traveller's Rest." In 1776 he was appointed to the command of the northern department —later put in command of the Army of the South — his forces were totally defeated. Retired to his farm "Traveller's Rest" where he lived in luxury-plenty of servants, much convivial company. Twas here Charles Lee visited. In 1790 Gates freed his slaves-moved to New York and remained until

There are records that show Washington and Lee were inti-mate friends and Lee was often a guest at Mt. Vernon. On one occasion, after a night's stay the two gentlemen were riding to Alexandria, when Lee requested the loan of £15 to "tide him over." He was on his way to visit Gates, who had written that Jacob Hite's mill was for sale-and it was near Lee's estate. The deal fell through and Isaac H. Strider, II became the

Business must have been good; the said Strider carried on an extensive trade. The nearest port was at Alexandria, Va. A fleet of ox teams hauled flour and other mill products. On the return trip sugar, spices, tea, coffee, materials for clothing were brought in for the housewife. Orders were filled and goods distributed at the mill. Many heirlooms were accumulated-ginger jars and tea cannisters from the West Indies; sea shells from far-off shores.

# Leetown In The Middle 1850's

Without a dateline, Mary H. Cockrell of Charles Town wrote a letter reminiscent of an old school in Leetown and also gave a pen in vehicles on the pike. picture of the village as it appeared in 1854-55. Her interesting letter follows:

# Long, Long Ago In ... Leetown Village

"The time in the history of Leetown, about which I shall write briefly was 1854 and 55, when Franklin Pierce was President of the United States, when the Critary minded; loved freedom. Let mean war was devastating south-entered the British Army, saw ern Europe, and the anti-slavery service with Gen. Braddock. Wash- agitation was embittering sectional

"I was a schoolgirl then, attending school in a long log building near the pike, less than half a mile North of the Episcopal Church.

"Two tenplate stoves, burning wood for fuel, were needed to heat the school room in winter.

"Thomas Beall was our teacher. "The school at that time was a public institution, the first of the kind having been established in this country in 1849. My school mates came from families for miles came to America in 1755, served as around. All came on foot; auto-Major under Gen. Braddock. In mobiles and buggies were unknown

"Nearly all of them can be remembered by name; here they are: John, George, William, Ephriam, Charles and Snowden Watson, and their sister, Lydia, children of James Watson; John, Thomas, James, Louis and George Watson and their sisters, Sallie and Frances. children of Ephraim Watson; John Lindsay, America Milburn, John, James and Thomas Henson and their sisters, Annie and Susan Henson; William, Charles, Thom-

as, Davis and James Nicely; Frea Homer, Sandy Homer, Thomas Homer, Asbury Johnson, Thomas Helm, Thomas Shaull, Frances Shaull, John Shaull, Ben Gorrell, Louisa and Fanny Gorrell, James Newcomer, Charles Chamberlain, Drusilla Wageley, James Wageley, Louise and Camilla Roberts, Sallie Roberts, Mary and Martha Strider, James Strider, Susan Blue, James Moore, Chas. Wiltshire, James Wiltshire, Bettie Wiltshire, Mary Maslin, Sallie Young and Ab Mc-Clellan.

"Dr. Logie lived at what is now

known as Mantipike farm.

"The Cottage, where Mr. Dunaway lives, was the home of Judge Balch, our school commissioner, and also Dr. Stephens, his son-inlaw, the village doctor.

"Leetown had industries of its own in those days. It supported a dour mill operated by George Henson, a tailoring shop presided over by George Nicely, a blacksmith snop with a Mr. Johnson as the presiding genius.

"Charles Cameron, with Davenport Wiltshire as clerk, operated the only store in the place, and which was, by the way, also the

Post Office.
"Opposite the store was the tollgate where Samuel Lindsay colected toll from those who travelled

"On the pike north of the Episcopal Church, and on the opposite side of the pike was the Methodist Church, which later was sold to the Baptist denomination.

'Balch's spring just north of the mill, and on the west side of the pike, was a favorite resort of the school children at recess time.

"Going to the spring from school | and returning, we had to pass the Mollie Lyne Tavern, at that time abandoned. We would take great delight in romping through its deserted rooms, if we had the time every time we would pass the place. The tavern building has long since vanished. In its happy days of prosperity, the tavern catered to travelers, most of whom in those days were merchants and freighters with wagons and teams, going to or returning from Alexandria, Baltimore or Philadelphia, hauling produce thither, and returning with merchandise.

"Mary H. Cockrell, "Charles Town, W. Va.

The Leetown of today cannot be judged by the past glories of the village.

In the old days taverns, where man and beast found adequate refreshment, were built. No doubt the Molly Lynn Tavern, near the Balch Springs (now Fish Hatchery property) was a gay resort. The youth of the late '90's remember the long, log building. The chink and daubing had long fallen out; the floor was nothing more than mouldy chips. Who lived there? The last known person was "old Aunt Charity." No one could tell to whom she belonged. From old tales she was quite a character-a fortune teller, a mixer of herbs, an adviser to the lovelorn. Surrounding the tavern and up on the hillside were evidences of a small settlement. Could those three houses be responsible for Leetown?

(In a Topographical Description of the Counties of Frederick, Berkeley & Jefferson, in the State of Virginia, by Charles Varle, Engineer and Geographer, published 1810, the following description of Leetown is given: "This town is called after the late Gen. Lee; It lies on the road from Smithfield to Shepherdstown; about ten miles from the latetr place, and contains only two or three houses.)

We come to another episode in the town's life. The old Wever Mill that was built by the same family that gave Weverton, Md. its name; later known as the old Balch Mill. The Wever mill house, the log house occupied now by Mr. Chester Ambrose of the Hatchery personnel, and known as "Mt. Misery" could well be one of the aforementioned houses, also the old



Stone House, built by Hite, now owned by Mr. Lee Osbourn. An old toll house, where the three roads meet, has long since been torn down. All is vague, except the mill and the Judge Balch home.

There is a legend saying, "The mill was grinding flour for Revo-lutionary soldiers." One beam bore the name John Rogers, 1813, another 1803. On the fourth floor is a date in the late 1700's. The old buhr hopper bore, carved deep, "A. Wever." The Leetown Mill was one of the very few in the valley that was not burned during the Civil War. The reason-it was owned by a Yankee named Balch, run by a rebel, Roberts. When the Yanks were in the Valley Old Judge Balch was around. When the "Rebs" arrived the southern miller, Roberts was at the buhrs. The Mill had its ups and downs—from buhr stone to the latest model rolls. Many owners and millers ran the mill. No doubt Lee carried many a grist to the mill.

The friendship of Lee and Gates was lasting (until Mrs. Gates and Lee had a "few words." He called her a "Medusa." She ordered him from Traveller's Rest and all friendship ceased.) Alas, the Washington side became quite distasteful; Lee refusing all intercourse with Gen. Washington. Not until after Lee's death was Washington repaid the £15. Miss Sidney Lee paid her brother's debt in full.

When Lee was riding the crest his freinds were many. After his quarrel with his Commander-in-Chief quite a few deserted him. At Prato Rio the days were long. Lee was no farmer—he owned a large library which he used and enjoyed. His life was a simple one. He was cared for by his humble friend, Guiseppe Minghini and a house-keeper, Mrs. Elizabeth Dunn.

Lee had a fondness for teaching young men—undertook to complete the education of James Monroe, who later became the president of the U.S. A. With friends high up in the public life of his day, the Byrds of Westover, Gens. Howe and Greene; Alex White of Winchester and Shippens of Bellevue; Light Horse Harry Lee, Richard Henry Lee; Carrolls of Carrollton; he was a guest at the home of Col. Wm. Washington (near Prato Rio) could that have been at Harewood?

On one occasion Washington visited Lee, possibly to renew the friendship, and was refused admittance to the house. The last recorded opinion of Lee's was that Washington was a "puffed up charlatan." He was an ill man when that remark was made to his friend, Robert Morris.

Lee's life was thwarted at every turn—even in his choice of a burial place. His sense of humor was keen, requesting that he might not be buried "in any church or churchyard, or within a mile of any Presbyterian or Ana-Baptist meeting house, for since I've resided in this country, I have kept so much bad company when living,

that I do not choose to continue it when dead." That famous speech led orthodox Christians such as Episcopal Bishop Meade of Virginia to denounce him as an infidel and blasphemer. The will continued, "I recommend my soul to the Creator of all worlds and of all creatures; who must from his visible attributes be indifferent to their modes of worship or creeds, whether Christians, Mahometans, or Jews; whether instilled by education, or taken up by reflection.

or Jews; whether instilled by education, or taken up by reflection; whether more or less absurd; as a weak mortal can no more be answerable for his persuasions, notions or even scepticism in religion, than for the colour of his skin."

Lee's religious views were similar to Franklin, Jefferson, Tom Paine and Washington. Oct. 4, 1782 Lee was buried from Christ Church, Philadelphia, Pa. with full military pomp. Many high dignitaries attended, members of Congress—they mourned for the treatment he had received; believed that his early services to the country more than compensated for his shortcomings. Lee has long been remembered! Leetown, West Virginia, which grew up near Prato Rio; and Ft. Lee, New Jersey have served in a small way to perpetuate his memory with the public.

# Great Light . . . Big Noise!

By E. E. MEREDITH

History is not always recorded if a statement of Moses Shinn written down Sept. 30, 1843 is to be credited. He wrote:

"On the 12th of January, 1800, near 10 o'clock at night there was a great light and tremendous noise exceeding the most terrible thunder. The night was clear and pretty. This light and noise was just the same over the whole earth, however, for I have never heard of a part where the light was not seen and the noise heard.

"Some supposed it to denote the end of the century. If so, it is strange that there was no record kept of the matter. I have never seen so much light and heard so much noise, but in no book, paper, or almanac had any account of this.

"If this should go to the end of another century without being written of it will be entirely lost so I urge everyone that is 60 years old to recall the event."

Mr. Shinn probably lived at Shinnston, W. Va., and he does not state how he knew that the light and noise was on the "whole earth." And it is doubtful if he was in a position to know whether or not the event had been mentioned in some paper or book.

(The spelling has been corrected in Mr. Shinn's letter and slight changes made as the original is partly destroyed and a few words have been lost.)

# News From Old Papers

Spirit of Jefferson Dec. 20, 1844.

### BEAR FIGHT.

On Christmas day, at the house of the undersigned in Bolivar, near Harpers Ferry, a fight between a Large Bear and Two Dogs, will take place, at eleven o'clock, for

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS

fifty a side. All gentlemen having good dogs are invited to bring on the battle-ground for a second contest. Rifle-men are also invited to attend, as the Bear will-be shot for in the evening after the fight—And Sportsmen of the Turf may be gratified on the Island near the Tavern, where there is a good Quarter-track. Racers are requested to bring their fleet nags with them to finish the sports of the day; after which a splendid

Oyster Supper

will be furnished for all who may choose to partake thereof.

William C. House.

### LARGE FLOUR PRODUCERS

In 1795, both Berkeley and Frederick counties were large producers of flour, of which a large part was exported to the West Indies, where wheat was not grown. The master coopers had an organization in Martinsburg, two of the officers being Jonathan Rush and Joseph Harris.

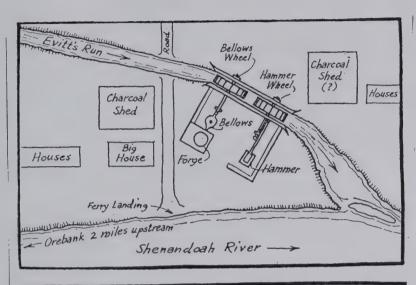


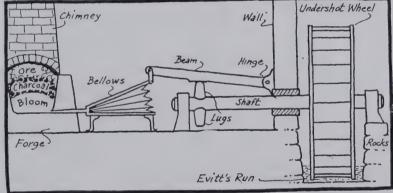


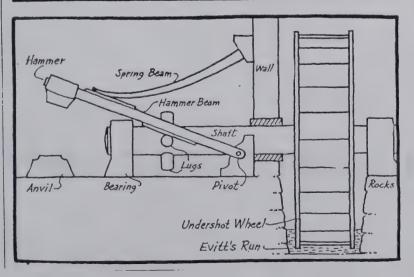
GENERAL CHARLES LEE—the sarcastic and vituperous soldier under General Washington fought a duel with Colonel Laurens, one of Washington's aides; Lee was wounded in the side. In the spring of 1779, Lee retired to his estate—"Prato Rio"—at Leetown. He finally grew tired of his sabine farm (rural abode), which seems to have been sadly mismanaged, and entered into negotiations to sell it. This took Lee to Philadelphia in the fall of 1782. While in Philadelphia, he was seized with a fever and ague, which terminated in his death. He died in a delirium, fighting over his battles. "Stand by me, my brave grenadiers!" were Lee's last words. The above caricature is reproduced from an old copy of a Weekly Journal, printed in London, England, and now in the possession of Miss Lucy Ambler, Charles Town.



# "The Bloomery" As Washington Saw It







On Friday, May 9, 1760, George Washington "called at the Bloomery and got Mr. William Crawford to shew me the place that has been so often talked of for erecting an Iron Works upon."

He didn't say Vestal's Bloomer; or Mayberry's Bloomery or just "a bloomery, so evidently on tha drizzly morning the Bloomery was quite a place—at least for the sparsely settled frontier that Jefferson county was then. Yet no one apparently thought enough of the Bloomery to leave a description of it so today we have only the name "Bloomery" and two patches of black earth from which to reconstruct a picture of the place where Washington called.

We do know that Themas Mayberry agreed to erect a bloomery for making bar iron on the William Vestal Plantation about 1742, and ten years later there was mention of a road from Lorg Branch to the Vestal Iron Works. At that time iron was desperately needed in the Colonies. British laws restricted its manufacture and most of the known ore in Virginia belonged to Lord Fairfax who demanded a ruinous one-third of all ore miner for himself. Mr. Vestal, knowing he had good ore on his plantation and knowing that there was a good market for iron, evidently engaged Mr. Mayberry to build an iron works for him.

Mayberry could not order a furnace out of a catalog, but had to do with what he could find on the estate and make with the few tools at hand. He even had to pick out the place for the iron works. The ore was on the river bank several miles upstream from the site he selected. Wood for the making of charcoal, there was aplenty everywhere, for the forests were then almost unbroken. The third ingredient for a colonial iron works.
power for the bellows and hammer, he found on Evitts Run. He chose the location at the mouth of the stream where the fall is rapid and close to the river so he could float the ore to the bloomery on fias

(Note: The accompanying illustrations will give an idea of how Vestal's Bloomery was built and its crude operation.)



The bloomery itself was nothing but a large blacksmith's forge several times as big as those we still see here and there about the country. The fire pot was rather deep. In it the smith built a hot fire of charcoal fanned by a large bellows run by water power. Over the charcoal he heaped the ore, adding more charcoal and more ore as the heap melted down and always keeping up a strong blast, for air aplenty was needed to keep the fire hot. An ordinary fire of wood or charcoal without an air blast would not reduce the ore to iron

The chemical action of the bloomery was simple. The ore was an oxide of iron, the same thing as rust. In the hot fire the charcoal—carbon—united with the oxyger of the ore to form carbon dioxide gas, leaving the iron. The bloomery fire could not be made hot enough to produce molten iron as the blast furnace does. The iron formed a plastic, white-hot mass full of impurities. To make it into usable bar iron the impurities had to be hammered out.

The second step of the process was even more important than the reduction of the ore, for the sponge iron was worthless until it was

made into bar iron.

When the mass of iron was big enough the smith wrapped it around a stout pole—of green wood so it wouldn't burn too quickly — much as dough is wrapped around a stirring spoon. This glob of metal was put on an anvil and beaten with a huge hammer. At each blow sparks flew in all directions and flakes of slag fell off. The bloom gradually became solid When it cooled the smith reheated it in the forge. Then with poker and tongs he put it under the hammer again and again until no more slag could be beaten out of it and he had a fairly good bar of what we call wrought iron. "Wrought" simply means worked. The iron was sold to blacksmiths who made it into tools, nails, hardware, guns, horseshoes, wagon wheel tires and so on. Obviously, to make iron by hand

power was costly in frontier days when it was hard enough to feed a family by farming and hunting without trying to feed a lot of men who did nothing but hammer all day. The difference between a bloomery and a blacksmith's forge was that water power was used to

run the bellows and hammer instead of man power.

Just how Thomas Mayberry obtained the water power of Evitts Run is not known. However, bloomeries had been operated for nearly a thousand years since the Spaniards of Catalonia first develoned them. The proper name of a blocmery was a Catalan Forge. The tame "bloomery" came from the plocm of sponge iron much as our word "beanery" comes from a Boson restaurant. Mayberry probably knew of a variety of schemes to hook up the water power. He probably did not build a dam, head race, flume, and overshot wheel such as we usually see at old mills —at least not at first. More likely he used an undershot wheel in a swift channel more or less confined

by rocks. He probably used two wheels, one for the bellows and another larger one for the hammer It was common to have a separate water wheel for each device in those days before elaborate ma-

chinery was invented.

The arrangement for the bellows was fairly simple. As the water turned the wheel, two heavy lugs on the axle alternately raised and lowered a long beam. The beam was hinged at one end and at the other attached to one side of a large bellows. The bellows was justike the familiar fireside or blacksmith's hand bellows only much bigger, perhaps ten to twenty feet long. The air pipe from the bellows blew into the forge near the bottom.

The forge hammer was a more elaborate device. Probably it was similar to the bellows machine ir having lugs from the water wheel

axle raising a long hinged beam. However, once the beam was raised the lugs were so arranged that it would drop fast to strike a hard blow. This could be done by having a long axle from the water wheel extend into the building. The hammer beam lay alongside the axle so that the lug came up under the beam and after raising it turned out from under it to let it fall. Pictures of early hammers show that they usually also had a spring beam over them to give them more of a wallop. The lug would raise the hammer beam handle, if you can imagine a handle a foot or more square) up against the spring beam. Then when the lug turned out from under the hammer beam the spring eam sent it down with a full wham:ny. The hammer head was nade of iron and weighed several hundred pounds, so you can see that a bloomery hammer was nothing to hit your thumb with-not twice anyway.

Mr. Mayberry may have used another type of early hammer that sounds like a Rube Goldberg scheme kut which was actually used in certain places where a water wheel couldn't be used. This device was a big seesaw beam. At one end over the anvil was the juge hammer. On the other end was a large water tank that had a uick acting gate in it. Water ran into the tank from a high level Aume when it held enough water the tank went down and the hamner went up and stayed up until he smith was ready for it to drop. Vhen ready for the wallop, he signalled his helper who yanked open the gate. The water spilled out and the hammer fell. The gate had to be arranged so as to close by itself.

From this crude machinery the

Bloomery made the first iron west of the Blue Ridge. Probably the works were improved upon using the iron made there for the better machines. Quite likely overshot water wheels were used later for they would provide more power for the bellows and hammer. Even with iron available it was too valuable to be used much on heavy machinery. Practically all of the water wheels, bellows, and hammers were made of massive timbers. The axle of the water wheel was a large straight tree trunk. It turned in cradles of hard wood or stone and probably screeched to high heaven as it turned.

forge and hammer were The probably enclosed in a building about as big as a small barn. A substantial building was built for the supply of charcoal-probably separate from the bloomery itself because of the danger of fire from the hot sparks. It is unlikely that the charcoal was stored out of doors as it didn't keep well in the weather. Several houses for the workers completed the settlement. Most of the workers were colliers whose job it was to make charcoal in the woods. A few men could dig the ore and boat it down to the bloomery. Only a few workers were needed at the bloomery itself, for the water did most of the work. As M. T. Thomson of the U. S. Geological Survey points out, Bloomery was an excellent example of how the early settlers of Jefferson county used her water resources to advantage-for transportation of ore and for power to make the iron.

The Bloomery was probably not active for very many years, as it was supplanted by the blast furnaces that made cast iron. The

blast furnaces such as those at Shannondale that George Washington went to see about on that May day in 1760 were much more efficient than the early bloomeries,

yet a bloomery of a modern type was still in operation in the United States as late as 1900. The early variety, however, soon died out, not because the ore or water power gave out, but because the forests gave out. As much as 400 bushels of charcoal had to be burned to make a ton of iron in a bloomery, and the forested hills of Jefferson county could not supply even one bloomery for long.

Crude as the Bloomery was, it was a vital step in the industrial growth of our county. It gave us

the first iron that was needed to build the blast furnaces that came later. Later still, the blast furnaces led to the manufacture of steel, and it was steel that made America the industrial giant of today.

(Note: To locate the Bloomery in the above story, its original site was at the left of Route 9 going southeast from Charles Town, and just before entering the Shenandoah River bridge, and near where Evitts Run crosses under the highway.)



# Apple Seed Came To Jefferson County With American Pioneers

By DONALD R. RENTCH

Someone once said that "everything grows better in the mountains but oysters." And this is certainly true of apples, which for years has been one of the foremost industries in Jefferson county, the entire Eastern Panhandle section and also in West Virginia generally.

To most people outside the state and over the nation, West Virginia is a mining and manufacturing state. Seldom has agriculture been given the prominent place it rightfully holds in West Virginia. As a result apple growing, which has become the state's leading soil crop, has too often been forgotten in listing the assets of West Virginia.

A look into the apple growing

Actually the most accurate re-

A look into the apple growing industry in West Virginia, especially in the Eastern Panhandle section which is the gateway to the famous and historic Shenandoal Valley, gives full cause for beasting that these West Virginia mountains produce mountains of the most flavorable fruit in the world.

## FROM ADAM AND EVE

From the time of Adam and Eve, down through the ages, apples have migrated with the continual movement of peoples, reaching the new world right along with the early colonists. Yes, some of the early American settlers had appleseeds stowed away among their possessions when they came to this new world to settle. Others went to all the trouble to graft trees of the different varieties of apples in Europe.

History reports the bearing of apple trees in this country as early as 1607. And more substantial proof that apple growing was being done in the early part of the seventeenth century is provided by the various laws enacted to promote and improve methods of growing along about 1639.

George Washington, the Father of Our Country, is also credited with being the father of the apple industry. It was George Washington who bought tracts of land from the Hessians, who "came to fight and remained to live." and demanded that his tenants plant acres of apple and peach trees.

Old leases issued on land which is now a part of Berkeley and Jefferson counties read "within three years there shall be planted an orchard of 100 apple trees, at 40 feet distance either way from each other, and 100 peach trees, the same to be kept, during the continuance of said lease, always well pruned, fenced in and secured from horses, cattle and other creatures that might hurt them."

Actually the most accurate reports obtainable give credit to Jonathan Chapman's seeds and Washington's forethought for the starting and developing of what is now one of the most important industries in West Virginia; and is second only to cattle in Jefferson county.

### BROUGHT APPLE SEEDS IN

It was the missionary work of Jonathan Chapman, better known as "Johnny Appleseed" which brought the apple seeds into this section and this state.

Johnny was a real, living character whose whole life was devoted to the preaching of the gospel and the planting of apple seeds in the then unsettled territory. Johnny would start out from Massachusetts, usually barefooted, poorly clothed and carrying a Swedenborg Bible in his hand and a bag of apple seeds across his shoulder. His enthusiasm for the planting of apple seeds was second only to his religious preachings. He roamed far and wide and was known as the "good" man and for the many nurseries he started.

Although there were apples and apple trees in this country as far back as the early 17th century; and although apple-growing in this section was started in the 18th century, it was not until around 1860 the commercial apple business had its origin.

Apple-growing in those days was a haphazard industry. Farmers raised apples from "scrub" trees, merely as an incidental part of their general scheme. Apple trees were allowed to spring up, and to grow as best suited themselves.

According to information gathered by Appalachian Apple Service in Martinsburg, the first commercial apple business in this section was started around 1860 in Berkeley County, which is still the heart of the apple industry in West Virginia.

The first commercial apple business in Jefferson county is reputed to have been in 1880 near Kearneysville.

# STARTED APPLE BUSINESS

It was Billy Miller who reportedly started the apple business in

Berkeley county. Billy planted acres of grapes on his farm located near Gerardstown, expecting to make wine for all the folks of the section. His wife, believing the wine-making was a bad influence for her growing sons, brought

Billy's plan to an abrupt halt. So, Billy turned to apples and other fruits.

Most of the farmers in the section looked upon Billy's departure from the growing of the usual crops as a "madman's scheme."

They asked, "what would he do with so many apples?"

For years Billy would load his apples on a wagon and drive them to Martinsburg some eight miles away, where he would peddle them from door to door. But in 1870, after much letter writing and many disappointments, Billy sold his first big apple crop to a New York man for the fabulous sum of \$6,000. When news of this sale spread, Billy's neighbors, and farmers from near and far made pilgrimages to the Miller orchard of find out how commercial apple-growing was done. Thus the apple industry in Berkeley county was born.

In Jefferson county it was Dr. Border who planted the first commercial apple orchard near Kearneysville. When it was successful many farmers began putting apple trees in 10 to 20 acres on their farms. They selected mostly the roughest and poorest field on the farm for this purpose. Most of these orchards were planted about 1895 to 1905.

80-90



Among the early growers were C. D. Wysong, Hess Reinhart, Dr. A. S. Reynolds, George Osbourne, M. M. Skinner, H. C. Marshall, a Mr. Kearfoot and Barney Hoffman, Will Licklider, C. C. Lemen,

A. S. Dandridge and Will Mc-Quilkan. These orchards were all planted chiefly in Ben Davis and York varieties, the only variety of apple grown in this section then. They are now all gone.

From this humble start, the apple-growing industry today has been raised to a point where it now stands second to none in scientific treatment and adaptation. And Jefferson county, a part of the gateway to historic Shenandoah Valley, has taken its place as one of the biggest and most important apple growing sections of the country.

### TOPPED ONLY BY LIVESTOCK

Only livestock and livestock products top apple-growing in Jefferson county as an industry. And it has only been in the past few years that livestock was able to move ahead of apples.

For years now apples have been bringing the farmers of Jefferson county and West Virginia millions of dollars. In 1949 the income of Jefferson county farmers from all fruits sold was \$1,363,865. About 80 percent of this income came from the apple crops.

According to the 1950 Census of Agriculture as compiled by the U.S. Department of Commerce, there are 267,424 apple trees of all ages in Jefferson county. And from the trees came 1,203,441

bushels of apples.

Jefferson county is admirably suited to the raising of fruit as it stands some 700 feet above sea level and the temperature is cool enough to give the orchards the necessary touch of strength, and yet warm enough to mature and sustain trees. The county's prominence in fruit growing, especially apples, has been recognized by horticulturists, and its orchards now give the county the rating as being one of the largest appleproducing counties in the world. These orchard lands have also become rated among the most valuable lands in America.

Jefferson county has the distinction of having the largest apple field in the world and on it is one of the most modern applepacking shed and cold storage plans in the world. It is located on the Harry F. Byrd orchards southeast of Charles Town, or within walking distance of the town. The Byrd orchards are also among the largest and finest apple orchards in the world.

During the early days of apple-growing there were no packing plants or storage facilities and very few refrigerator cars. The apples, when picked, were put into a slanting table and moved by hand up and down the tree rows. They rolled down the table past one or two sorters and on into the barrel at the end of the table. There was no sizing, except by eye, and lots of guessing was done. The barrels were headed and left piled high in the orchard

through sun and rain; or they were hauled to box cars and shipped. There was great waste. At least half of the fruit was thrown out and became cider or bulk apples.

But many things have changed in the apple-growing business just as in any other industry. Motorized pressure sprayers have replaced the horse-drawn carts; baskets first replaced the barrel as a packing container and then boxes replaced the basket.

When the scientific raising of apples began to forge to the front of horticultural achievement, the development of its supplemental industries got underway also. Cold storage plants began to spring up in the county and in the section; and down through the years they themselves have undergone the same process of evolutionary development as have the apples. Today the apple industry in Jefferson county and all of West Virginia holds a big place in the commercial and industrial life of West Virginians.

### BASIC RULES STILL APPLY

While many things have changed in the apple industry, the basic rules laid down by George Washington still remain in effect today in the planting of apple trees, and instead of the \$6,000 sales which Bill Miller first made, crop proceeds now approach the million dollar mark each year in many instances, and more than double that first sale in all cases.

Millions of bushels of apples are grown and stored in Jefferson county and the Eastern Panhandle section, year after year. And they find their way into practically all parts of the civiliz-

ed world.

The horticulturists of Jefferson county, like those in other applegrowing counties in the state and nation, have made a long and intensive study of the best methods of fruit-raising. From this they have adopted every expedient to bring the production of apples to a higher level, with the result that each year a marked improvement in the variety of apples and the number grown has been shown. This in turn has brought about a marked increase in the prosperity of this huge industry.

So in a state that was recognized only a few years ago almost solely for its mineral resources, we now find that Agriculture has moved up the ladder, thanks to the apple growing industry, until now it has become second only to the mining of

bituminous coal.

While it is hard to estimate how many persons Jefferson county apples have made healthy and wealthy, it is safe to say that many fortunes have been made in the Shenandoah Valley and in Jefferson county from the raising of apples.

Although it was not possible to obtain an official complete list of the apple-growers in Jefferson county The West Virginia Horticulture Society shows there are at least 38 of them who belong to the society. Following are those who belong to the society:

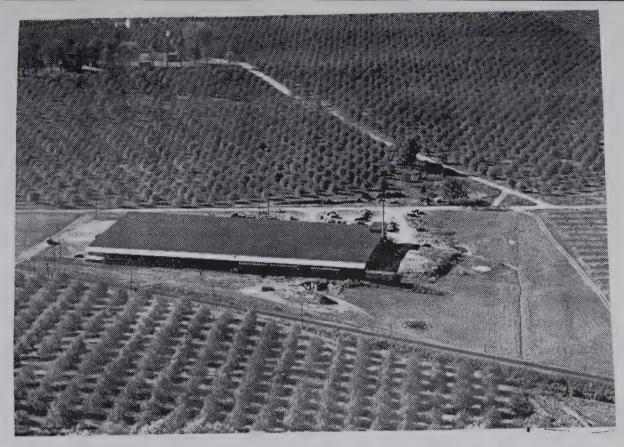
who belong to the society:
Milton W Burr, Bardane;
Roger Chew, Charles Town; J. Henry Dutrow, Charles Town; John F. Ambrose, Charles Town; B. H. Barr, Charles Town; T. E. Baumgardner, Charles Town; T. J. Braumgardner, Ranson; Harry F. Byrd, Beverly Byrd, Berryville, Va.; Morris E. Cather, Charles Town; W. R. Cook, Charles Town; Stanley Eye, Route 3, Harpers Ferry; F. T. Fiery, Charles Town; E. L. Goldsboro, Shepherdstown; Edwin Gould, Roscoe Kearneysville; Roscoe Grey, Charles Town; S. J. Hockensmith, Harpers Ferry; R. A. Hocken-smith, Shenandoah Junction; J. Burns Huyett, Charles Town; Burns Huyett, Charles Town; Mrs. H. H. Huyett, Charles Town; Marshall Brothers, Shepherdstown; Moore & Dorsey, near Berryville; James H. Myers, Harpers Ferry; John Y. McDonald, Charles Town; L. J. McDonald, Shepherdstown; McKee Brothers, Shepherdstown; John M. Orndorff, Shepherdstown; Louise Dutrow Ramey, Charles Town; Turney Ramey, Charles Town; Hollins Randolph, Charles Town; V. J. Rodgers, Shenandoah Junction; Charles T. Sechrist, Charles Town; C. M. Singhass, Charles Town; Sam M. Skinner, Shepherdstown; H. G. Slonaker Kearneysville; C. Manning Smith, Charles Town; D. H. Tabler, Shepherdstown; and Imogene S. Thompson, Summit Point; a n d Arthur Thompson, Experiment Arthur Thompson, Station, Kearneysville. Experiment

Several Berkeley county fruit growers and also several from Virginia also have orchards in

Jefferson county.

(Editor's note. The Jefferson Republican wishes to give credit to the Appalachian Apple Service for supplying some of the information for this story and also to the Bureau of Census for the statistical information.)





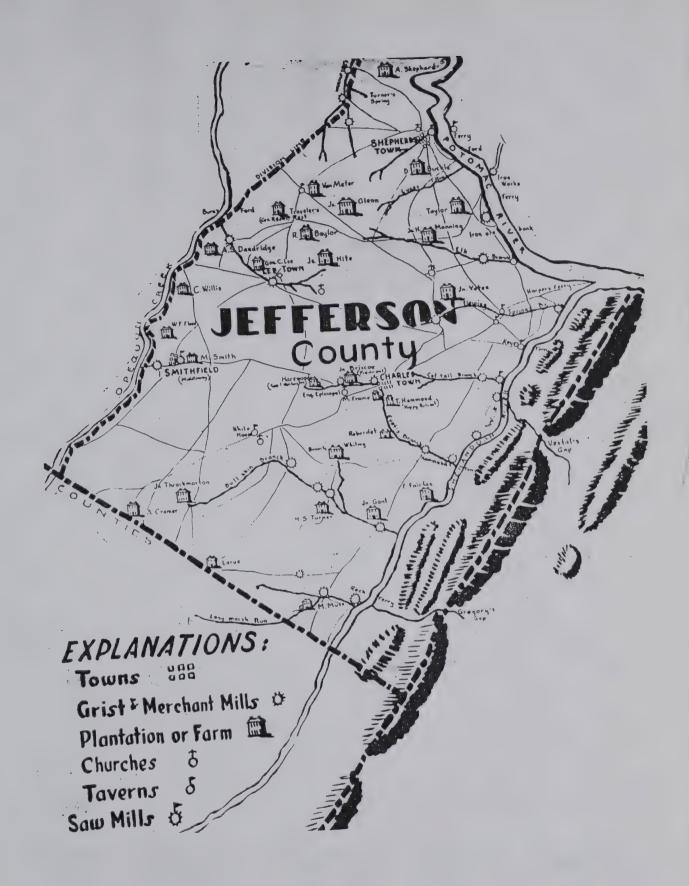
Shown above is an aerial view of the massive orchard lands with the modern packing shed on the Byrd-Jefferson orchard. The packing shed is one of the most modern and largest apple packing sheds in the world, having been built in 1944 at a cost of nearly a million dollars. And it is located right in the center of the largest single apple field in the world. Some 300,000 bushels of apples from the four orchards owned by U. S. Senator Harry F. Byrd, are processed at this plant.

Charles Town—Within the next few weeks the highways and bi-ways of the Eastern Panhandle section of West Virginia, the upper Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and parts of Maryland and Pennsylvania will be crowded with trucks hauling the mountains of apples grown in this area from the orchards to the packing sheds and processing plants. And one of the busiest spots in this section will be the huge Byrd-Jefferson Orchard (shown above) located about a mile south of Charles Town on the Rippon Road.



HOME OF WILLIAM LYNE WILSON at Middleway still stands. William L. Wilson, a distinguished son of Middleway, served his country as soldier, teacher and statesman. He was born May 3, 1843, on what is known as the Eddy farm (or Schwartz farm) about a mile to the northeast of the town. Benjamin Wilson, the father, died when his illustrious son was four years old. An aunt, Miss Lych Lyne, took a prominent part in the lad's upbringing, and is said to have applied her slipper in his early disciplining—afraid "he might not grow up right." In 1872, William L. Wilson served as Jefferson county superintendent of schools.







# James Varle's Map Of Jefferson Co.... 1807

Shortly after the formation of Jefferson county (1801) and before Jefferson county (1801) and before 1810, Charles Varle, engineer and geographer, published a small booklet (size 6x9 inches and of 34 pages) entitled, "Topographical Description of the Counties of Frederick, Berkeley & Jefferson, situated in the State of Virginia."

The title page also carried this introduction: ". . In which the author has described the natural curiosities of these counties; their mineralogy and lithology; also the quality of the soil, the manufactories, mills, &c; the number of inhabitants, towns, villages, &c; to which is added a beautiful map of these counties. Printed by W. Heis-

kell, Winchester, Va."

Excerpts from Varle's (1810) de-

scription of:

JEFFERSON COUNTY

The surface of the county contains 225 square miles, of 144,000 acres. The productions of the soil;

of Jefferson county are of the same kind as in Frederick county (Va.) There are only two sorts of soil in Jefferson county: one part mountainous and belonging mostly to Ferdinand Fairfax, Esq., on the West side of the Shenandoah River -and is nearly all woods.

The other sort of soil is to the West of Shenandoah, and is of a very superior quality of limestone; the whole capable of cultivation, and which, in my opinion, if in Pennsylvania, and the same distance from market, would sell for

100 dollars an acre.

I have counted in Jefferson county 31 grist or merchant mills, several saw and fulling mills; a number of carding machines have of late been established on the several streams, and no doubt but wool and cotton manufactories will soon be established also.

Note: Varle under the sub-head of "Mineralogy" recorded:

"that part of South Mountain or Blue Ridge belonging to Jefferson county, offers a large field for the mineralogist. Mr. Ferdinand Fairfax has specimens, found on that mountain, of all the ores of almost all the mineral genera, except platina and gold. That gentleman is the proprietor of the mountain in both Jefferson and Loudon, and is now (1810) erecting iron works on Shenandoah, about 4 miles from Charlestown, which, it is said, will soon be in operation. The iron ore according to Mr. Showers, the gentleman who has the direction of the works, and who is perfectly well acquainted with that business, gives the handsomest prospect of success, from a full trial made of it, as to the quality and quantity of the ore.

CHARLESTOWN (1810)

The seat of justice of Jefferson county, is situate in a beautiful and fertile lime-stone valley, on Evets Branch which waters it, and supplies in it a merchant mill and different manufactories. It contains a new and handsome court-house and jail; an academy or seminary of learning is kept in this place for the liberal education of youth. All of these public buildings are brick. Tho' this town lately commenced building, it contains by computation, 143 dwelling houses, chiefly of brick, and 715 soulsand increasing daily.

There are in this place (Charles Town) many valuable members of society in the class of the mechanicks, who carry on all sorts of trades and of manufactories. Here are two meeting houses for worship - one Presbyterian and the other a Methodist. A printing of-fice is kept here, where a Gazette

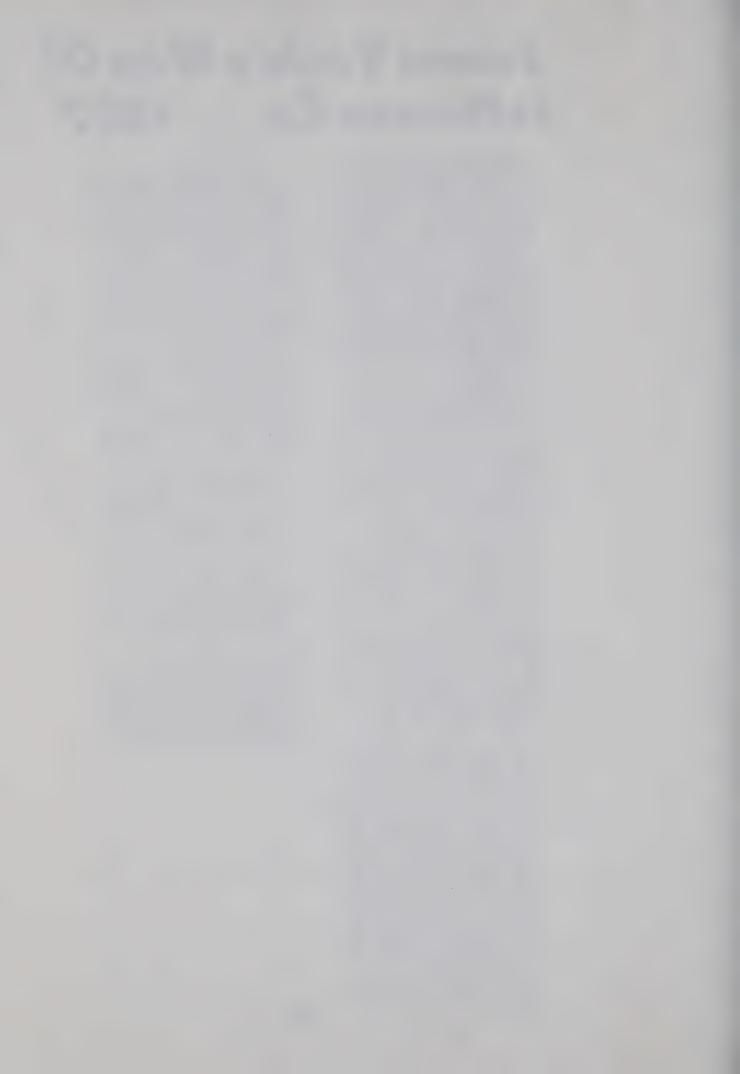
is published weekly. The mail stage

charlestown is 22 miles from Winchester; 28 from Frederick-Town; 65 from the Federal City (Washington); 72 from Baltimore; 170 from Philadelphia, 15 from 170 from Philadelphia; 16 from Martinsburg, and 117 from Staunton. Latitude north 29 degrees, 21 minutes.

(Note: The reproduction above is from a map drawn in 1807 and published as a part of Charles Varle's "Topographical Description". Only the part comprising Jefferson county is shown.)

In 1800, populations of towns in Jefferson county were recorded as follows by Charles Varle:
"Harpers Ferry: Though small

in appearance, contains upward of 700 souls. It has a good tavern, several large stores for goods, a . library, one physician, and a professor of the English language.



# **Jefferson County**

Charles Varle's Topographical Description of Jefferson County, published in 1810, noted the following:

"Jefferson County—Population: As the county is a late division of Berkeley county, and no census was taken since that epoch, the true population cannot be well ascertained; but it is commonly supposed, that it contains about one-third of the population of the whole (Berkeley and Jefferson) amounting to 6,000 souls for Jefferson, and nearly the half of the slave population of the whole, 1,800."

# News From Old Papers

If you have any livestock to sell and want to dispose of it at once, call on C. F. Wall, and if he cannot use it he will find you a buyer.

The Charles Town Electric Light Plant was sold yesterday by T. C. Green, trustee, for the sum of \$2,500 — the Messrs, Shepherd, of Shepherdstown, purchasers.

# Frederick County . . .

The Topographical Description by Charles Varle, published in 1810, sets forth:

"Frederick County (Va.) — Population: This county in 1800, when the census was taken, contained 18,322 white inhabitants, and 5,734 slaves—making in the whole 24,513. It is one of the most populous counties in the state (Virginia).

"The surface of Frederick County con-

"The surface of Frederick County contains 735 square miles, which, at the rate of 640 acres to each square mile, gives superfices of 470,400 acres; making 32 souls to each square mile

to each square mile.
"I have counted 75 merchant or grist mills in this county; as many saw mills; several oil mills; one paper mill; seven fulling mills, and one tilt hammer."

"Part of the rye and Indian corn grown here are distilled into whiskey and gin and partly sent to market,&c."

# Berkeley County . . .

Charles Varle's Topographical Description of Berkeley County, published in 1810, recorded:

"Berkeley County — Population: When the last census was taken (1800) Berkeley and Jefferson counties were one; it then contained 15,000 white inhabitants and 3,600 slaves. Suppose that 1/3 the white population has been taken to form the County of Jefferson, 10,000 whites would remain in Berkeley. It is supposed that half the above number of blacks fell to Jefferson county, although the division of whites was not so equal. The next census will settle this point. There is now in Berkeley county 2,100 tithables, or males above 16 years of age, paying the poor tax.





